

SPORTS REVIEW

May 1980

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Wrestling



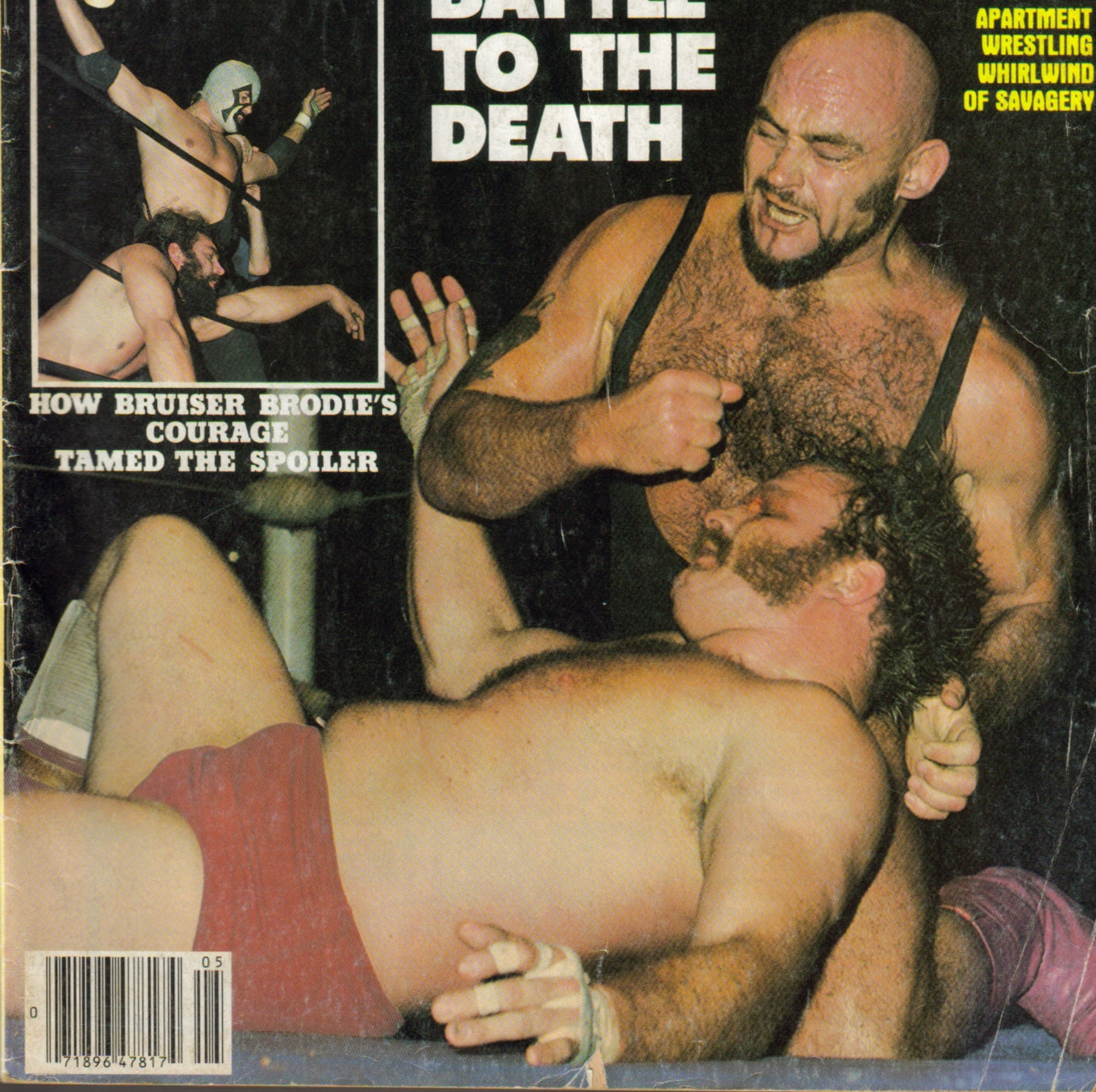
**APARTMENT
WRESTLING
WHIRLWIND
OF SAVAGERY**

Ivan Koloff vs. Ole Anderson:

**BATTLE
TO THE
DEATH**



**HOW BRUISER BRODIE'S
COURAGE
TAMED THE SPOILER**



OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

Champion: BOB BACKLUND

- 1—KEN PATERA
- 2—HULK HOGAN
- 3—PAT PATTERSON
- 4—IVAN PUTSKI
- 5—BOBBY DUNCUM
- 6—TONY ATLAS
- 7—HUSSEIN ARAB
- 8—TITO SANTANA
- 9—LARRY ZBYSZKO
- 10—RENE GOULET

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

Champion: NICK BOCKWINKEL

- 1—DINO BRAVO
- 2—VERNE GAGNE
- 3—GREG GAGNE
- 4—CRUSHER
- 5—BILLY ROBINSON
- 6—MAD DOG VACHON
- 7—SUPER DESTROYER II
- 8—JESSE VENTURA
- 9—CRUSHER BLACKWELL
- 10—PAUL ELLERING

MOST POPULAR

- 1—DUSTY RHODES
- 2—ANDRE THE GIANT
- 3—IVAN PUTSKI
- 4—BOB BACKLUND
- 5—RICK STEAMBOAT
- 6—MR. WRESTLING II
- 7—DINO BRAVO
- 8—JACK BRISCO
- 9—WAHOO McDANIEL
- 10—DAVID VON ERICH



MANNY FERNANDEZ



JIM BRUNZELL



MR. WRESTLING II



BOBBY DUNCUM

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

Champion: HARLEY RACE

- 1—DUSTY RHODES
- 2—JIMMY SNUKA
- 3—MR. WRESTLING II
- 4—MANNY FERNANDEZ
- 5—JIM BRUNZELL
- 6—KEVIN VON ERICH
- 7—MARK LEWIN
- 8—RIC FLAIR
- 9—OX BAKER
- 10—BOB ARMSTRONG

TAG TEAMS

- 1—THE SAMOANS
- 2—RICK STEAMBOAT & JAY YOUNGBLOOD
- 3—VERNE GAGNE & MAD DOG VACHON
- 4—IVAN PUTSKI & TITO SANTANA
- 5—BRYAN ST. JOHN & STANLEY LANE
- 6—IVAN KOLOFF & ALEXIS SMIRNOFF
- 7—RAY STEVENS & GREG VALENTINE
- 8—TIGER CONWAY JR. & JOSE LOTHARIO
- 9—MR. HITO & MR. SAKURADA
- 10—THE TWIN DEVILS

MOST HATED

- 1—TERRY FUNK
- 2—KEN PATERA
- 3—GREG VALENTINE
- 4—MASKED SUPERSTAR
- 5—ERNIE LADD
- 6—DORY FUNK JR.
- 7—JERRY LAWLER
- 8—EDDY MANSFIELD
- 9—MARK LEWIN
- 10—GINO HERNANDEZ

The Inquiring Reporter

No one knows wrestling better than the fans.

Because of this, we're now giving these experts a forum for their views and opinions. Each month, we'll ask a controversial question and have the fans answer—no matter what those answers might be!



Pat Patterson has turned his attention to wrestling's rulebreakers and has stopped battling men like Jerry Brisco (above).

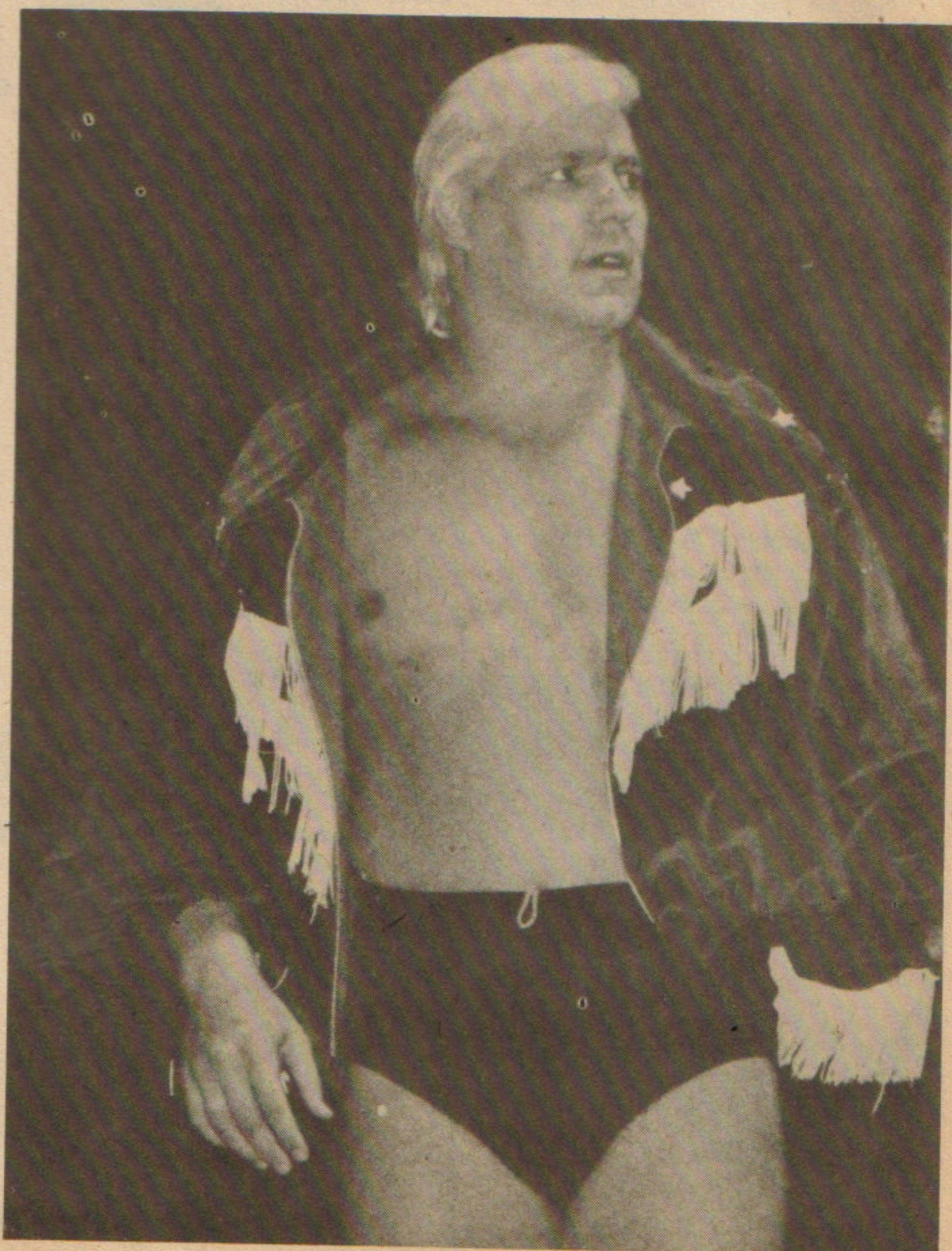
THE QUESTION:

"Do you think Pat Patterson can remain a scientific wrestler?"

THE ANSWERS

Reggie Sanders, Queens, New York:
"I think Patterson knows who his friends are now. That's why he'll stay as a scientific wrestler. He almost had his career ended when his old 'friends' went after him. Pat knows rulebreakers have no honor. He likes being around people he can trust."

Debbie McCulloch, Buffalo, New York: "Pat Patterson is always
(Continued on page 48)



TATTLER

CORRESPONDENTS

Larry Cohen

Chicago, Ill.

Warren Knowles

Seattle, Wash.

Allison Corey

New York, N.Y.

Andre Camus

Montreal, Canada

Buddy Ford

St. Louis, Mo.

Masanori Murikami

Tokyo, Japan

Andy Rankowski

Portland, Ore.

Myron Roth

Miami, Fla.

Clifford Douglas

Denver, Colo.

Kevin McCloud

Boston, Mass.

Leroy Jackson

Detroit, Mich.

Danny Torres

Los Angeles, Ca.

B.W. Foreman

Atlanta, Ga.

Paul Dreiser

Pittsburgh, Pa.

Carl Salinger

Richmond, Va.

Geoffrey York

Toronto, Canada

Charles F. Amberson

St. Paul, Minn.

Cedric Coleridge

Sydney, Australia

George Hawkins

Bangor, Me.

Ed Remington

Indianapolis, Ind.

Diane Goh

Honolulu, Hi.

James Washington

Houston, Tex.

John West

Baltimore, Md.

Ellen Larsen

Charlotte, N.C.

Butch Gallagher

San Francisco, Ca.

Virginia W. Sloan

Amarillo, Tex.

Randy Swift

Memphis, Tenn.

Barry Simon

Tampa, Fla.

CHARLOTTE, NC—Gene Anderson is the new manager of United States heavyweight champion Jimmy Snuka. "Jimmy needed a great brain to guide his career, and that's me," admitted the



JIMMY SNUKA

"modest" Anderson. "With me guiding his every move, stiffers like Rick Steamboat, Jay Youngblood and Ric Flair, don't stand a chance. Not a chance."

Another frightening thing to happen here is the pairing of Greg Valentine and Ray Stevens. It is rare that any team has ever clicked so well. If the

(Continued on page 12)

Never before in this history of wrestling journalism have so many respected reporters been involved in so important a venture. The best wrestling correspondents from all over the world have been enlisted to report on the news behind the news. Every wrestling fan must consider this the most important column he can read!

THE TATTLER

(Continued from Page 10)

tag team championship of Rick Steamboat and Jay Youngblood has ever been in jeopardy, it is now. "I once thought Flair was the perfect partner," Valentine says, "but I was dead wrong. Ray Stevens is the man. He is great. Almost as great as me!"

—Ellen Larsen

HOUSTON, TX—Former WWF champions Superstar Billy Graham and Bruno Sammartino are both in the area. It looks like a showdown is imminent. This is the first time in years we have seen the sensational Bruno and he has

lot of trouble in the past with Lou Albano, that maniacal manager up East, and he has taught Albano a thing or two by wrestling him. Come on Hart, challenge Bruno. We're sure he won't back down.

Jose Lothario and Tiger Conway Jr. continue to defend their American tag team belts against the best in the state. They are the greatest tag team champions Houston has ever seen as far as this writer is concerned.

—James Washington

MEMPHIS, TN—Big mouth Jerry Lawler keeps



JERRY LAWLER

is mine. I am regarded as champion by everyone in Tennessee and the surrounding areas. Let's get Bockwinkel out of his hole and force him to wrestle me."

Meanwhile Bill Dundee is burning mad that Lawler has called him "the worst wrestler in history." Dundee feels that Jerry has damaged his good name and vows to make Jerry's career a very short one. "I never crippled anyone before. Lawler will be the first!"

—Randy Swift

ATLANTA, GA—Late word just in: Mr. Wrestling II has taken the Georgia championship from Masked Superstar. It's a day for rejoicing. The Superstar had one of the most violent rules of any Georgia champion. How refreshing now that the championship is back in the hands of the man we all love.

Ivan Koloff and Alexis

(Continued on page 62)



GRAHAM VS. SAMMARTINO

not lost anything at all. The man is still a legend. We'd love to see him get his mits on Gary Hart and finally teach him a lesson. We know that Bruno has had a

crying for a championship match against AWA king Nick Bockwinkel. Lawler says, "All I need is one more match against Bockwinkel and the AWA belt

TOP WRESTLER

YOUR QUESTION

Do you have a question which concerns all of wrestling? Each month in **SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING**, the sport's top superstars will answer a question sent in by a reader. If you wish to have your question answered by the wrestlers, send it to:

ASK THE STARS

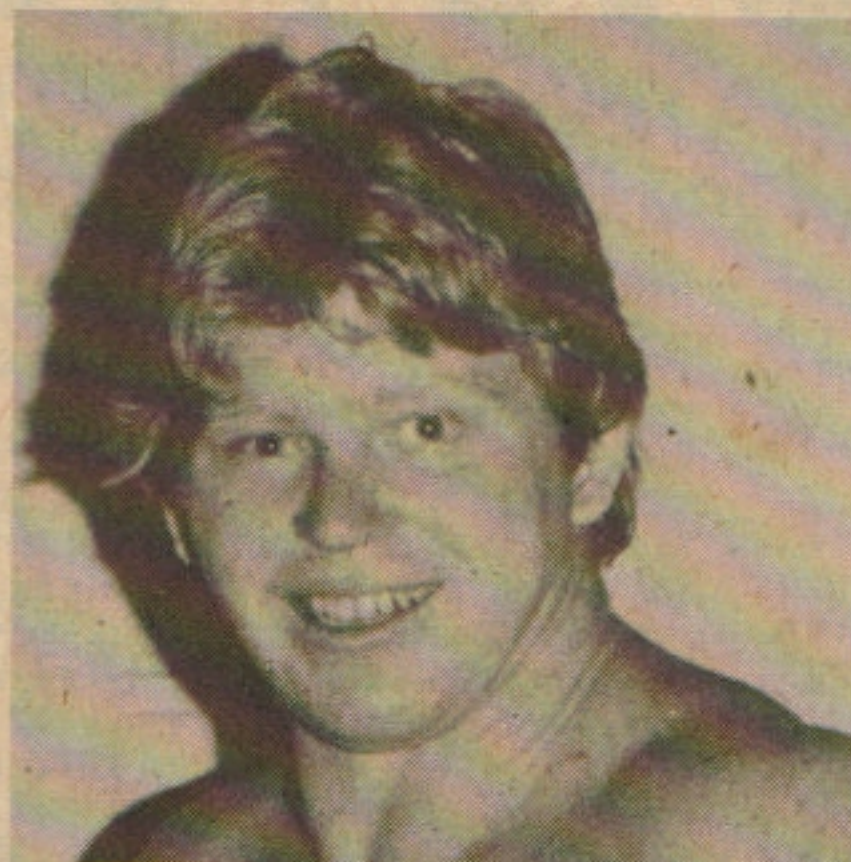
**Sports Review Wrestling
Box 48**

**Rockville Centre, N. Y.
11571**

**The "Question
of the Month" is:**

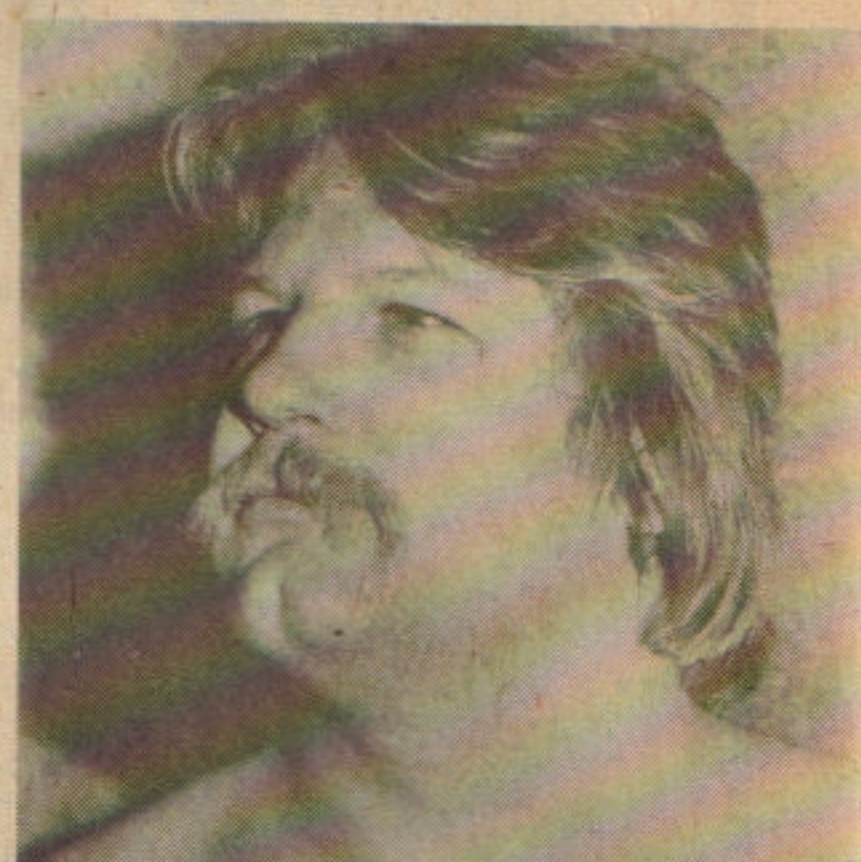
**"What is the
hardest wrestling
maneuver to
master?"**

**Submitted by:
Norman
Tomasino;
Durham,
North Carolina**



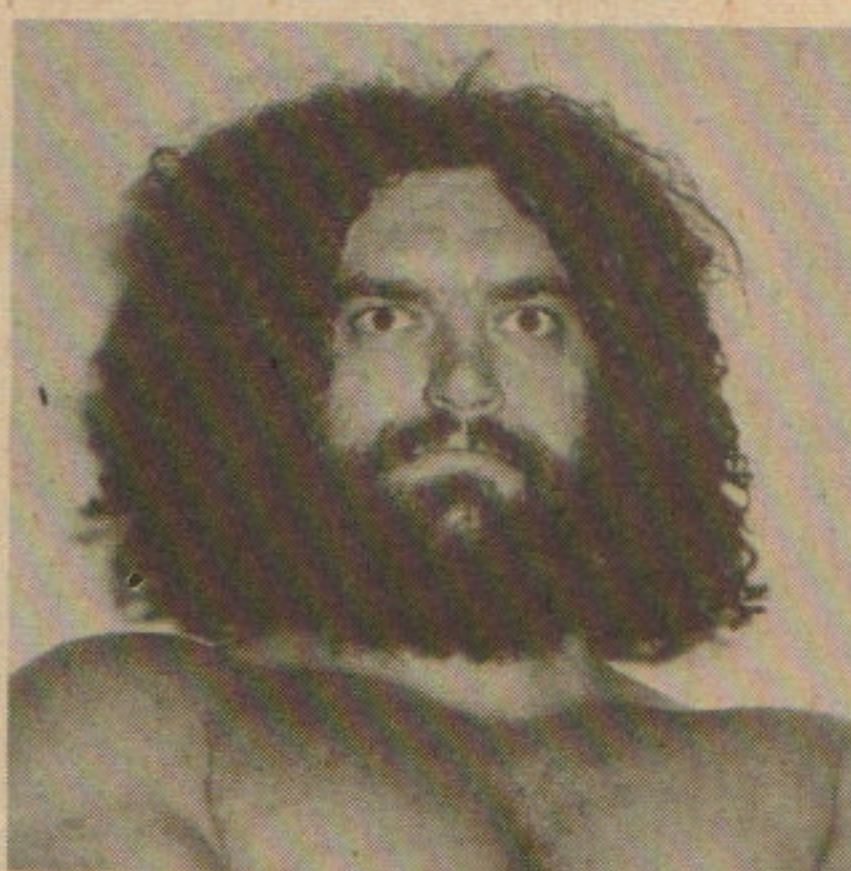
BOB BACKLUND

"For me, the Boston crab is the hardest maneuver. For it to be done correctly, everything has to work perfectly, like clockwork. Done well, it's one of the most graceful moves. I'm still a little clumsy at it. It'll take a couple of years before I get it where I want it."



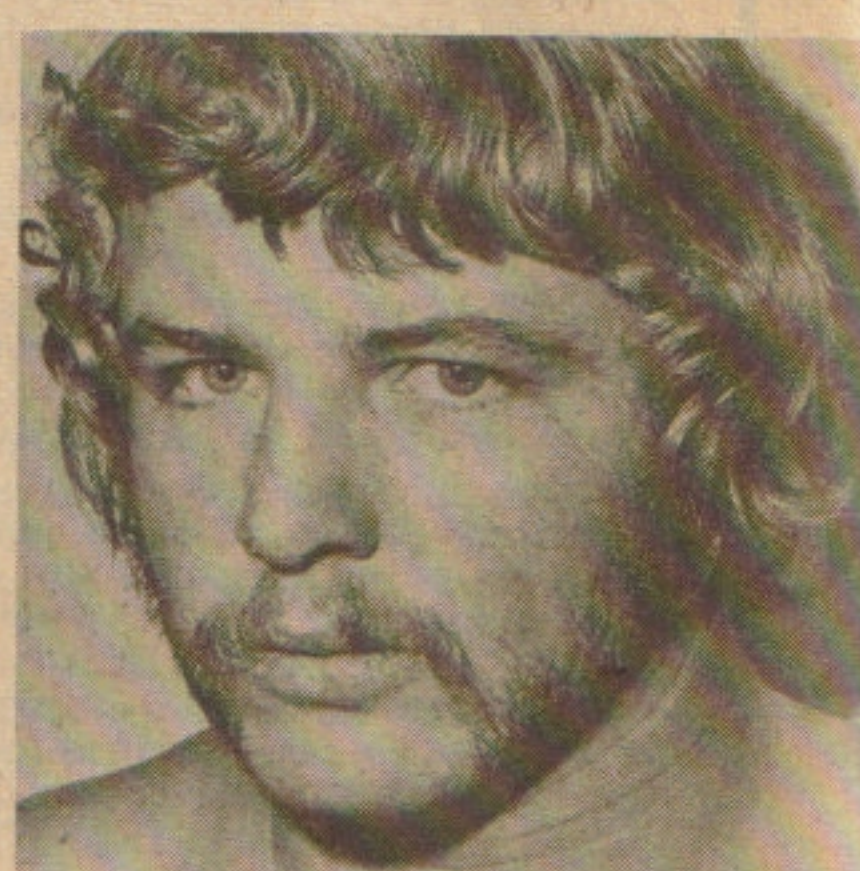
STAN HANSEN

"I'm not trying to brag, but the lariat has got to be the hardest maneuver. It's incredibly effective, downright awesome. How come nobody but me ever used it? It's too hard to learn. It takes a combination of strength and grace that only I possess."



BRUISER BRODIE

"Most people don't realize it, but a headlock done right is really hard to do. If guys could do the headlock right they wouldn't need to choke. It looks so easy, most guys never even think to do it right."



MIKE GRAHAM

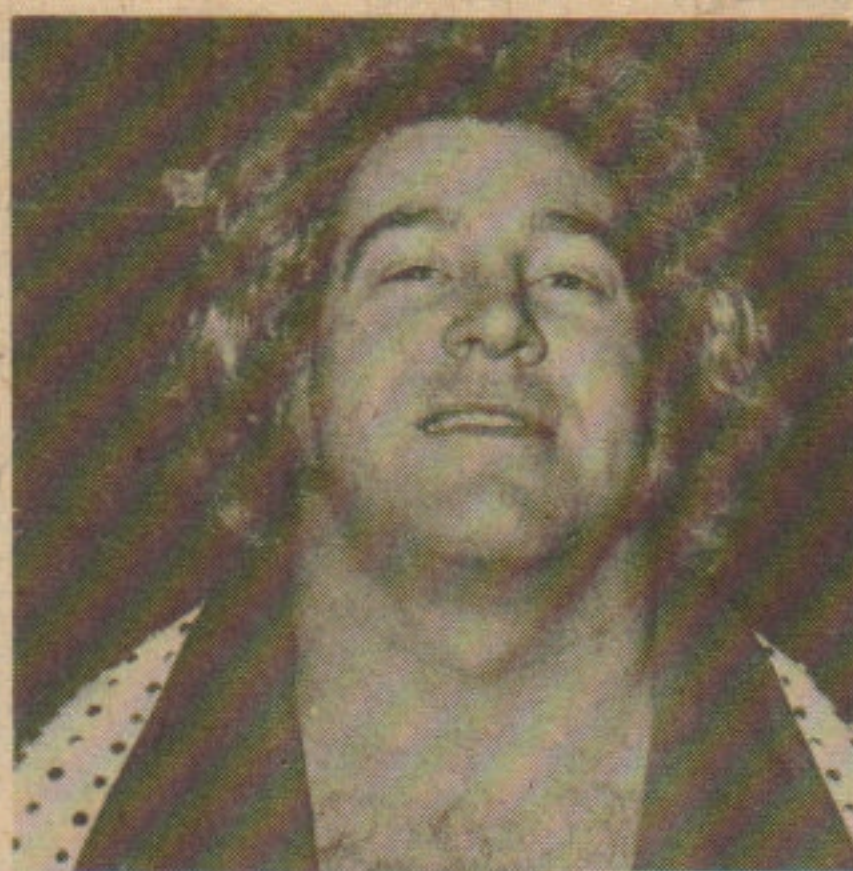
"A really perfect flying bodypress is a wondrous thing to behold. Watch Mil Mascaras when he's doing it right. His whole body is positioned just perfectly. To do it as well as Mil requires incredible concentration and coordination. To do it that well must be the hardest thing in the world to do."

RS ANSWER OF THE MONTH



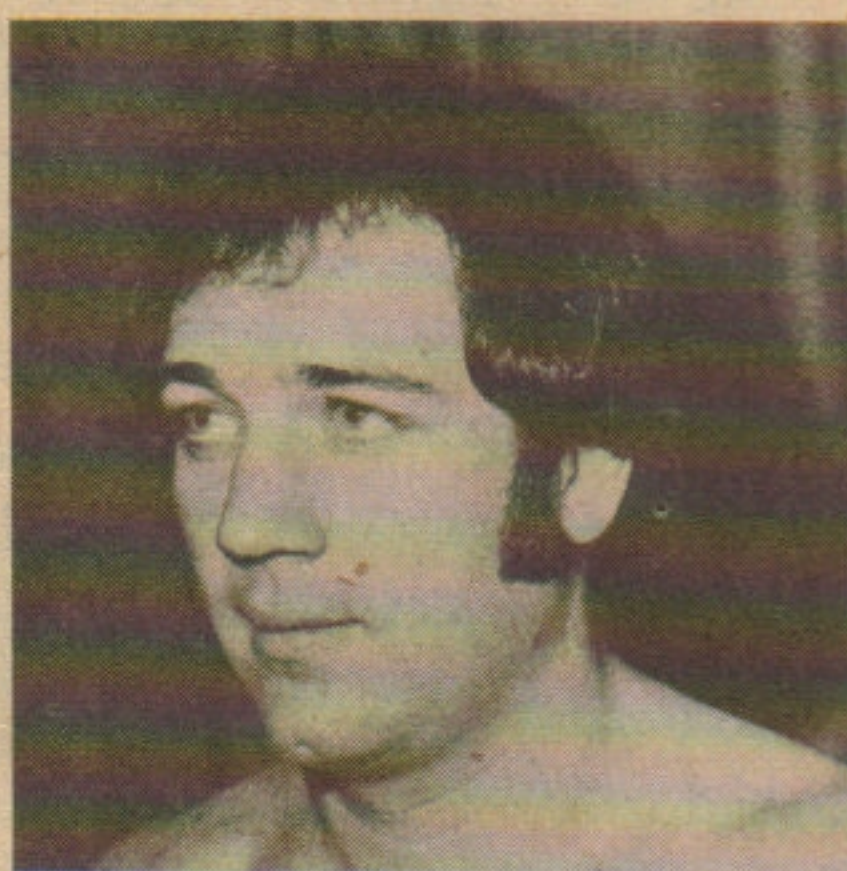
RAY STEVENS

"The figure-four leglock has got to be the hardest maneuver for me to get right. I'm never satisfied with it. I only use it when I really feel in control of the match. I've often wondered why I'm so great at so many holds, the best in the business, but I just can't get the figure-four right."



KEN PATERA

"There may be three people in wrestling who do a really great bearhug. I have one. Ivan Koloff can do it brilliantly. Bruno Sammartino's bearhug is effective, though it's less powerful than mine. As for everyone else, they just squeeze. To know where and how and when to apply the pressure is an art most people don't even know about."



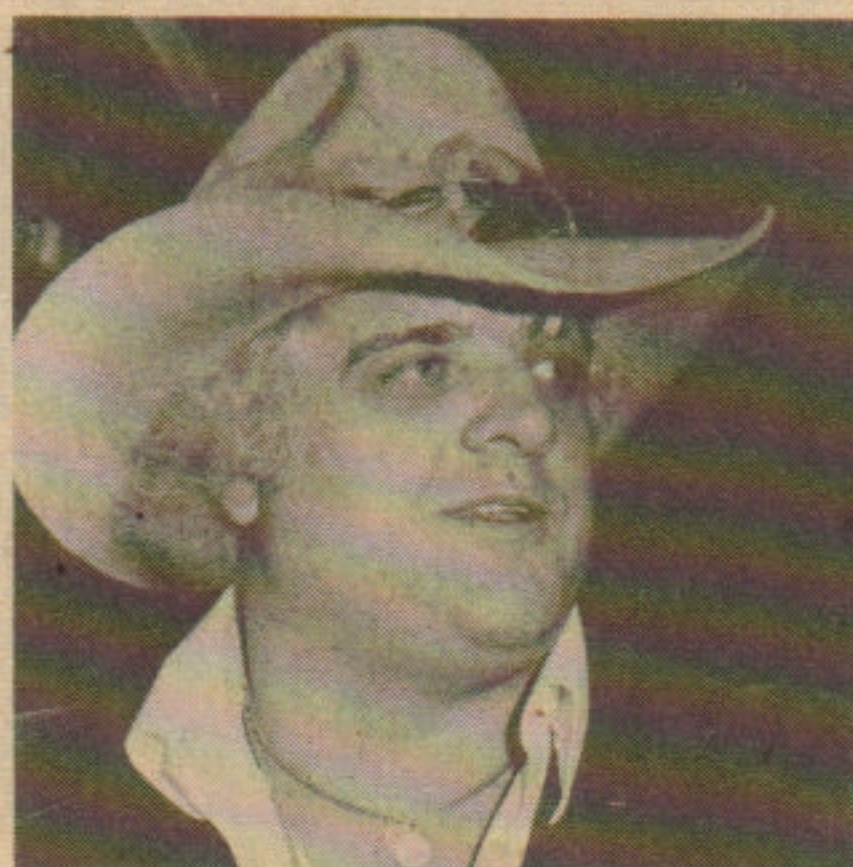
GREG GAGNE

"Whenever I see my father, Verne Gagne, or Chief Jay Strongbow apply their sleeperholds, I realize what a complicated, difficult maneuver it really is. Those two have the best. I'd like to believe my sleeper is third best in wrestling."



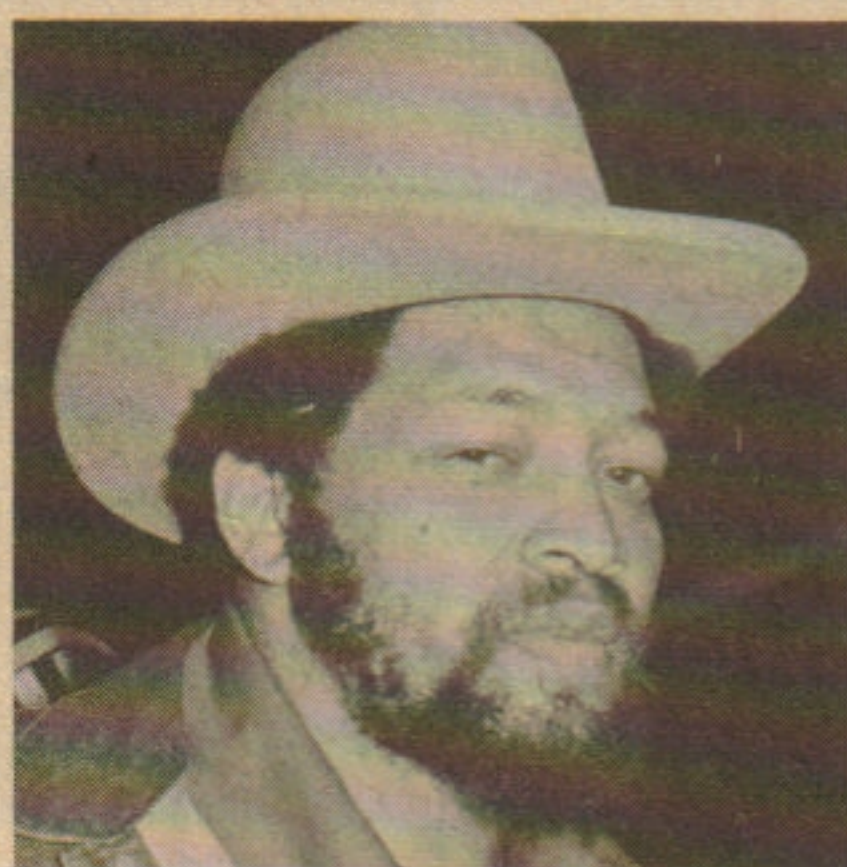
JERRY LAWLER

"When I was a kid, I used to marvel at Antonino Rocca's backbreaker hold. I always wanted to do it. I guess I can do it as well as anyone in wrestling today, but I can't approach Rocca. The harder I try, the harder it gets. Rocca was *some* athlete!"



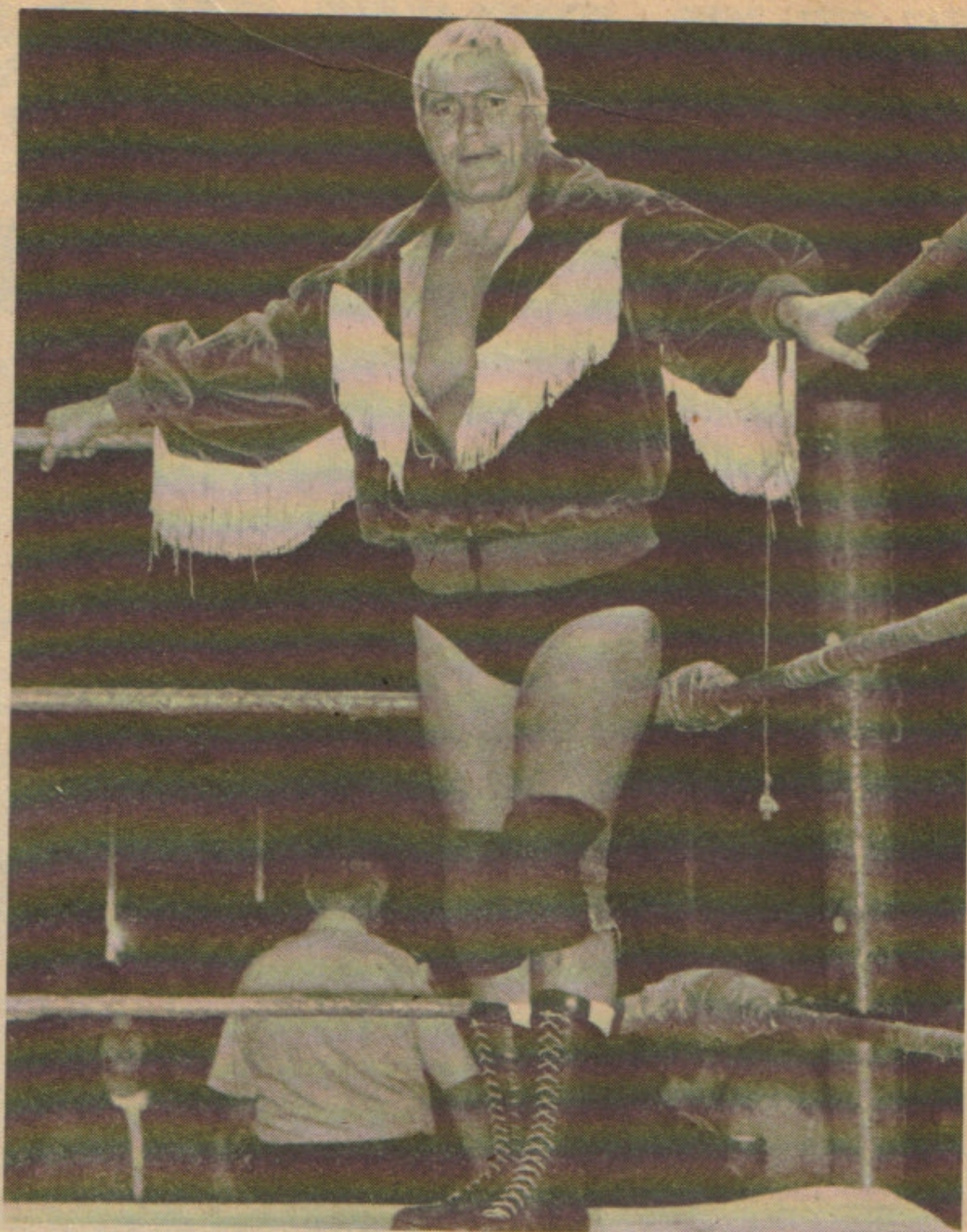
DUSTY RHODES

"For the past three years, I've been trying to do a flying leg scissors. Right now, it's passable, but not near good enough. I've never worked so hard on anything in my life. And I've never gotten so little out of it!"



ERNIE LADD

"There are no hard wrestling maneuvers. Hell, I can do anything anytime I want. Anybody who says some hold is hard is just showing what a lousy athlete he is. Name the hold. I'm great at it." □

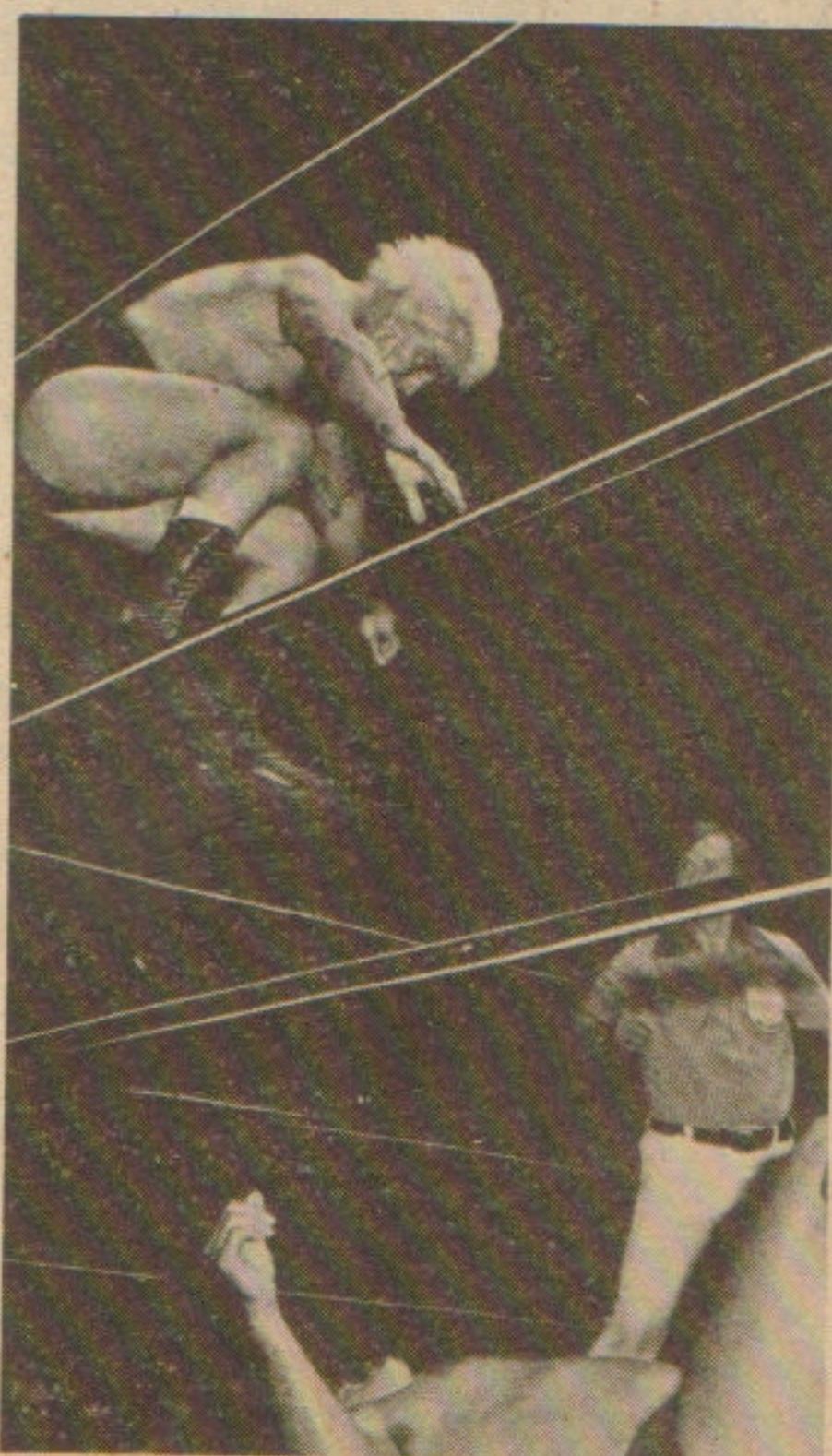


A FEW MONTHS AGO, one of the last people we'd think of honoring as "Wrestler of the Month" was Pat Patterson. In the incredibly changing world of professional wrestling, nothing remains the same. Yet, the wild and unpredictable events of the past month have astounded even us.

Pat Patterson is "Wrestler of the Month." Probably even Pat is astounded by the ordeal and triumph that earned him this honor. He has gone from hated to beloved. All it took was one of the most incredible betrayals in wrestling history.

It all started when Patterson's contract was sold by the Grand Wizard to Lou Albano. As one of the WWF's leading rulebreakers, Patterson seemed a natural for Albano's stable. Many people assumed their reign of terror would begin when Patterson joined the Samoans for a three-man tag team match. Only Albano and the Samoans knew the truth.

Pat Patterson rests in his corner and absorbs the cheers of the crowd (above). Patterson drops atop Tito Santana, whom he is not likely to confront in the near future.



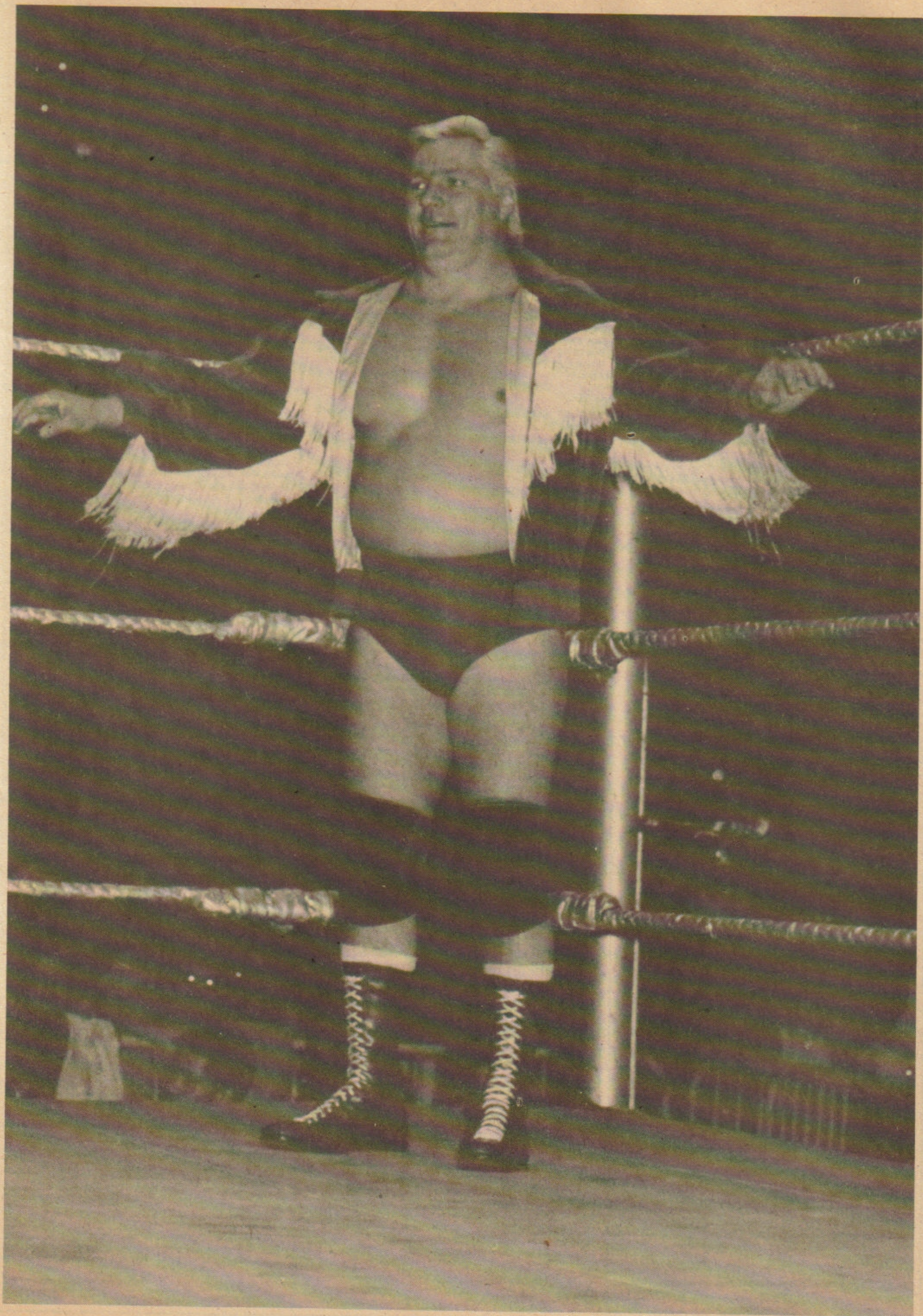
Early in the match, Patterson got in trouble. Incredibly, the Samoans refused to come to his aid. Patterson was enraged but helpless to do anything. Everyone soon realized the Samoans were under orders from Albano not to tag Patterson. Albano had thrown Patterson to the lions!

Ignoring the match, Patterson went after Albano. Immediately, the Samoans came to their manager's aid. The terrible trio battered Patterson mercilessly. Albano even smashed a chair across Patterson's head!

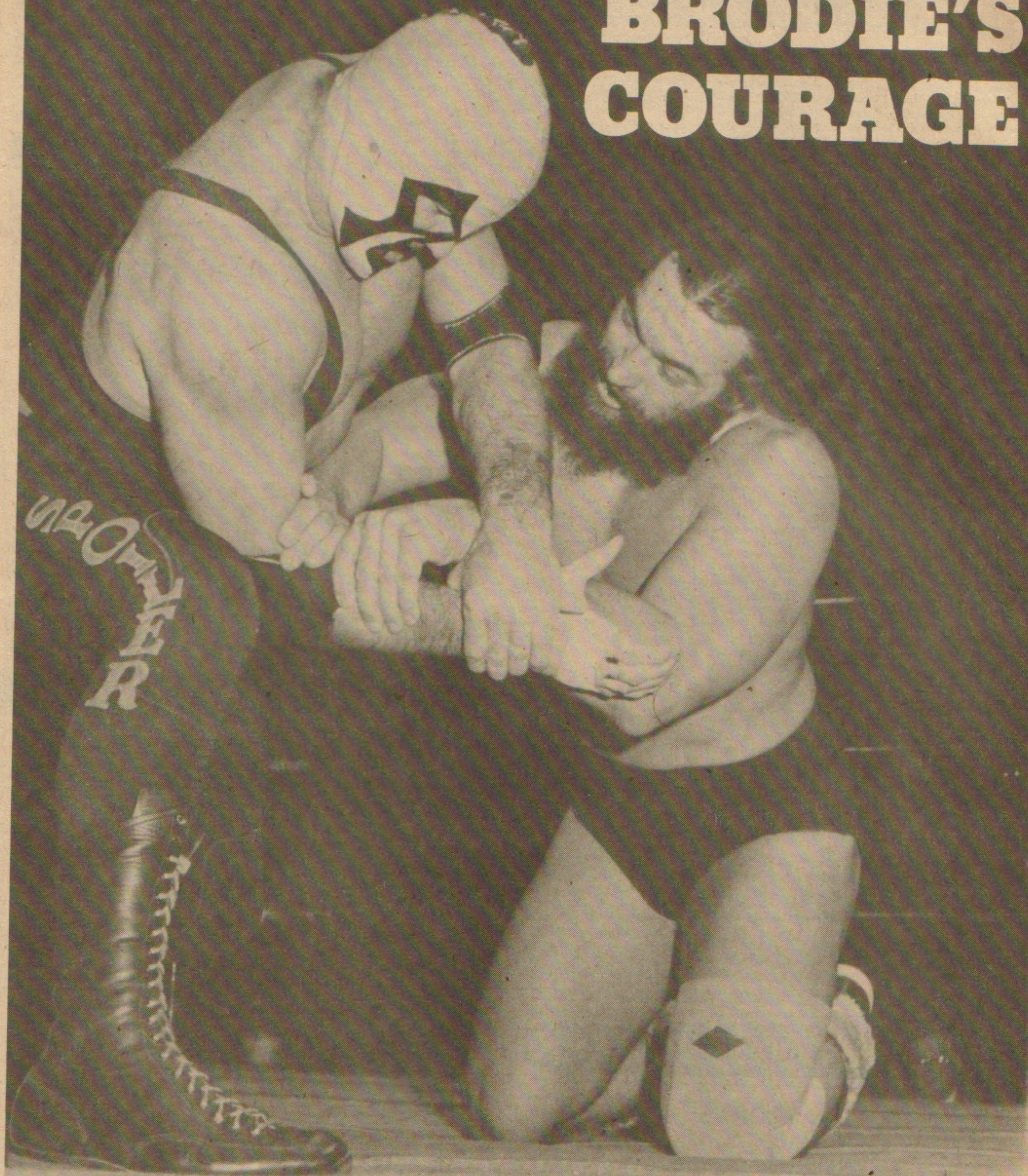
After this beating, Patterson challenged Lou Albano to a revenge match. Surprisingly, Albano accepted. It was the wily manager's biggest mistake.

Patterson was an unstoppable force bent on vengeance. Albano never had a chance. In one of the most remarkable battles of his career, Patterson battled furiously. Albano tried every trick in the

(Continued on page 64)



HOW BRUISER BRODIE'S COURAGE



TAMED THE SPOILER

IN THIS DAY and age, it's easy to be cynical. Even the best deeds seem to be done for the worst reasons. To trust is to be disappointed.

No one could blame a person for not believing Bruiser Brodie wants to be a respected scientific wrestler. For too long, Brodie was notorious for ruthlessly battering helpless foes. When he declared his intentions to become a scientific wrestler, people laughed. Brodie expected that. It didn't change things.

Slowly but surely, Brodie established his credentials as a scientific grappler. Foe after astonished foe fell to his brilliant grappling skill. Eventually, he earned a shot at the American belt. He faced the champion, Spoiler.

If there was ever a match to tempt him back into rulebreaking, this was it. Brodie has a special obsession with the American belt. He craves it as much as any major championship. Someone once told him, "You'd kill to win that title!" Brodie didn't disagree.

So everyone expected Brodie to attack Spoiler like a mongoose attacking a cobra. Fans eagerly purchased tickets expecting a bloodbath. Even Spoiler pronounced, "This match will make the Roman gladiators seem like librarians!"

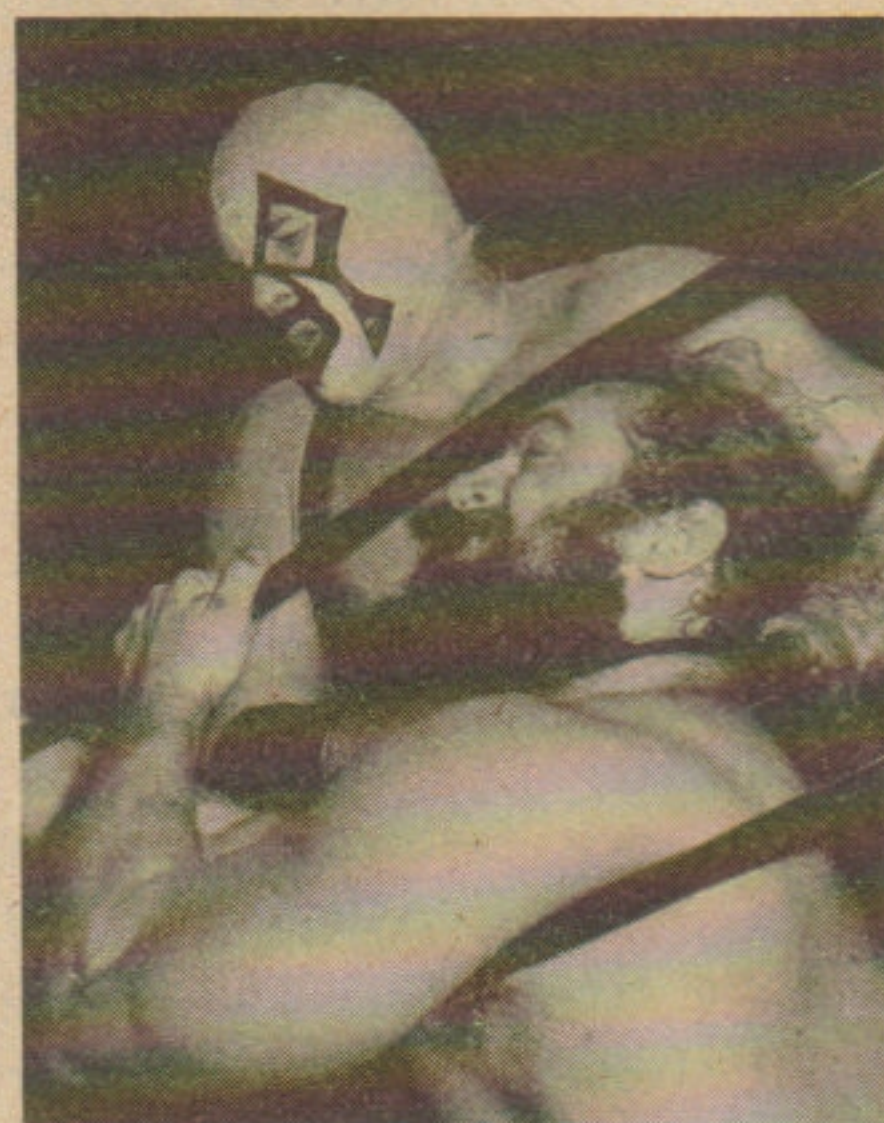
Only Brodie disagreed. "As much as I want the title," he stated, "I want my reputation as a scientific wrestler more. I can whip Spoiler without resorting to my old tactics. Spoiler knows that. He's saying those stupid things just to get me angry. He knows he stands a better chance if we wrestle dirty. If I wrestle clean, he knows I'll win. And I'll win it the way I want to!"

Few people listened. Intent on

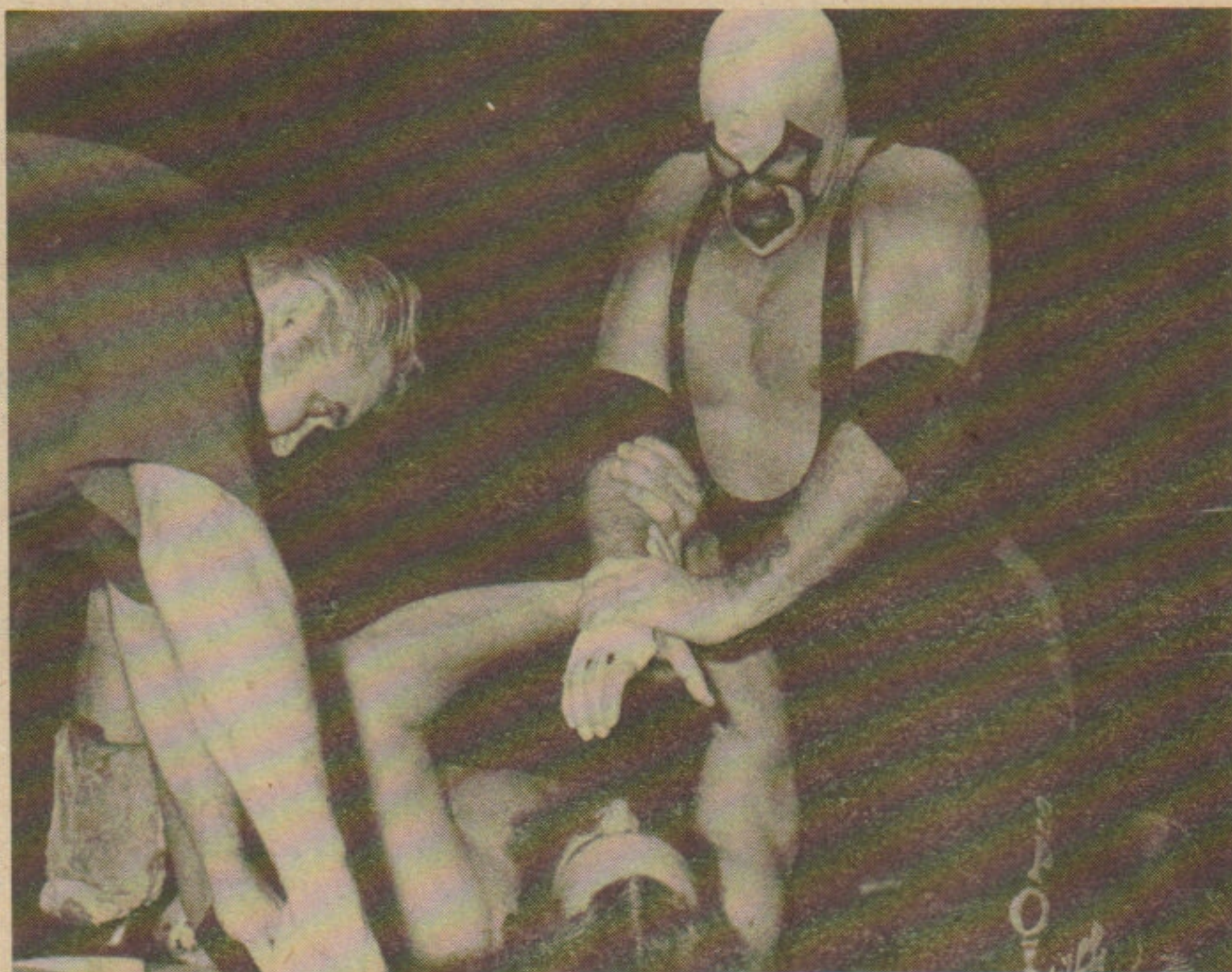
their bloodbath, they filled the arena. An electricity of violence crackled in the air. A few people got up and left before the matches even started. It frightened them to be in the arena.

Spoiler was the first one out of

the dressing room. By the way he strutted toward the battlefield, it didn't matter that Spoiler wore a mask; you could feel his sneer and expression of contempt. The crowd booed his appearance. He loved the sound.



Bruiser Brodie desperately wanted to win the American belt from Spoiler, but not desperately enough to revert back to using illegal tactics. If he didn't have to break the rules in this match, he felt he would never have to break the rules again. Above left: Spoiler stomps Brodie, despite his position under the ropes. Above right: Spoiler strangles Brodie with a strap from his wrestling suit. Below: Using all his strength, Brodie repels the clawhold.



Every conceivable method has been used upon The Spoiler. In spite of heroic efforts, he remains an untamed animal. Until Bruiser Brodie vowed to curb The Spoiler's brutal excesses and show him how a man is supposed to wrestle

When Brodie came in, there were cheers, yet they weren't wholehearted. This crowd was prepared for Brodie to betray it and himself. Most people gave him less than three minutes before he'd turn into a rulebreaker.

The two men faced each other. The tension in the arena was incredible. The announcer appeared frightened as he made the introductions; the last place he wanted to be was between the two combatants. After the introductions, he rushed from the ring. The only ones remaining were Brodie, Spoiler, and the referee. The official looked as if he'd rather be anywhere else but there.

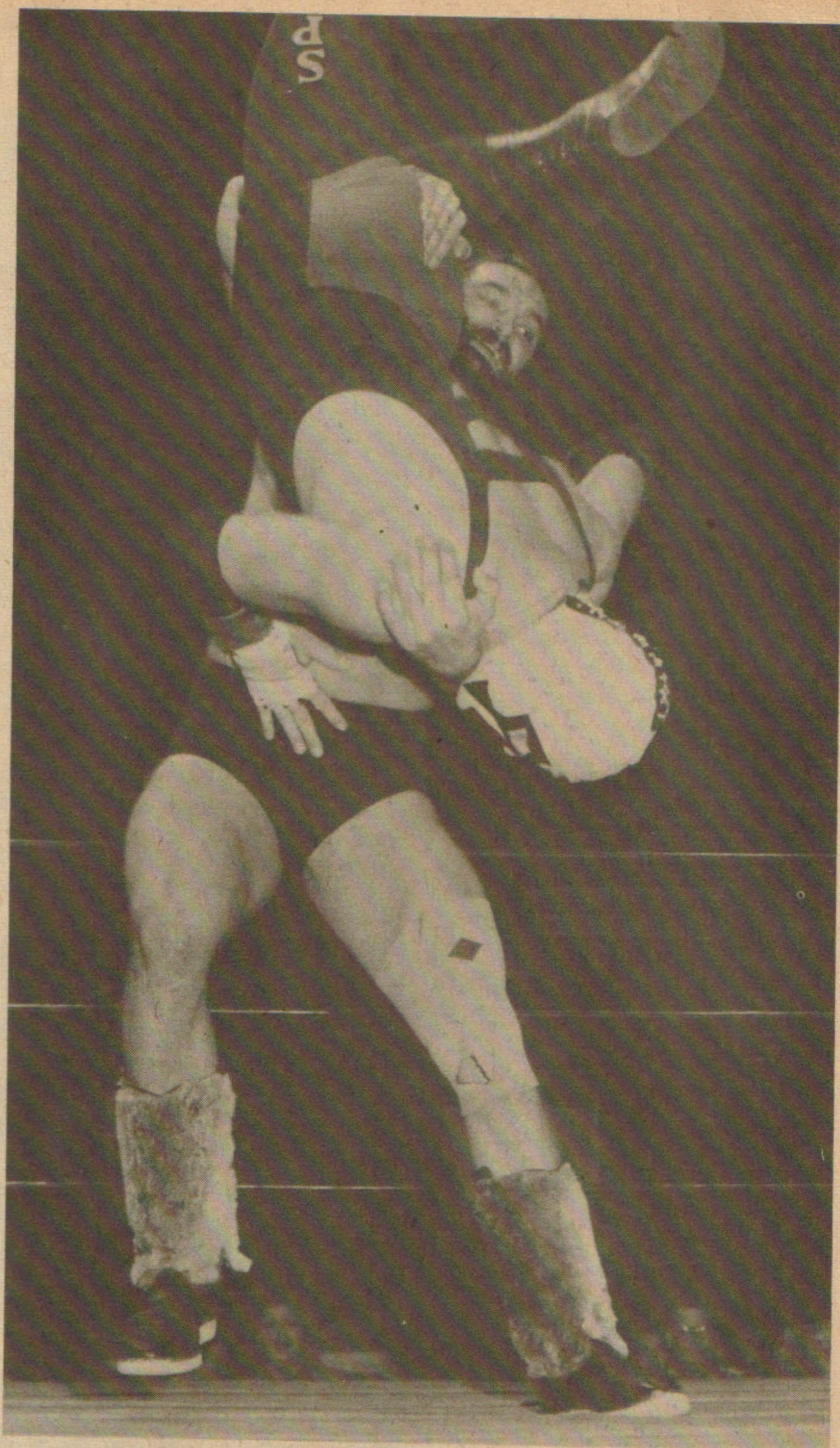
The bell sounded. Spoiler rushed at his foe. Before anyone realized what happened, Brodie was trapped in a chokehold. The referee tried to make Spoiler break, but the masked grappler only slightly released the hold. Then, when the referee couldn't see, he'd again squeeze Brodie around the throat. For bad measure, Spoiler raked his nails across his victim's face.

Somehow, Brodie escaped. The crowd was on its feet. They *knew* Brodie would become an animal again.

Instead, Brodie responded with a perfect armlock. Spoiler, prepared for a dirty tactic, didn't know what hit him when Bruiser next snared him in headscissors. Then followed a series of magnificent scientific maneuvers. The crowd cheered wildly. Finally, they trusted Brodie.

Bruiser rewarded their trust with a wondrous display of wrestling brilliance. Each maneuver flowed into the next, an overwhelming series of virtuoso grappling. The genius of his strategies was surpassed only by the perfection of his execution. Spoiler tried his dirtiest to battle back, but to no avail. This was Brodie's night. The Americas belt was to be Brodie's title.

When the inevitable occurred,



Whereas Brodie would certainly have disregarded the rules against an opponent like Spoiler in the past, he stayed completely within the framework of the rulebook in this match. He walked away with the American title, and more importantly, his self-respect.

and Bruiser Brodie was proclaimed champion, the crowd rose to its feet as one. Those in the front rows claim to have seen a mixture of joy and relief in Brodie's eyes. Perhaps the new champion hadn't been sure he could do it, either.

Back in the dressing room,

Brodie stood before the mirror, delighting in his reflection with the belt around his waist. This was the greatest night of his career.

He had won the belt. He had won the trust of the fans. And he had won over the savagery of his past. □

SPORTS REVIEW BONUS PINUP
MIL MASCARAS



Florida Champion Manny Fernandez: **“THE A SPORT**

SOME WOULD CONSIDER him an idealist. Others would call him naive. But Manny Fernandez looks around him and sees a lot of wickedness in his chosen profession and he feels, with enough help, he can make some changes.

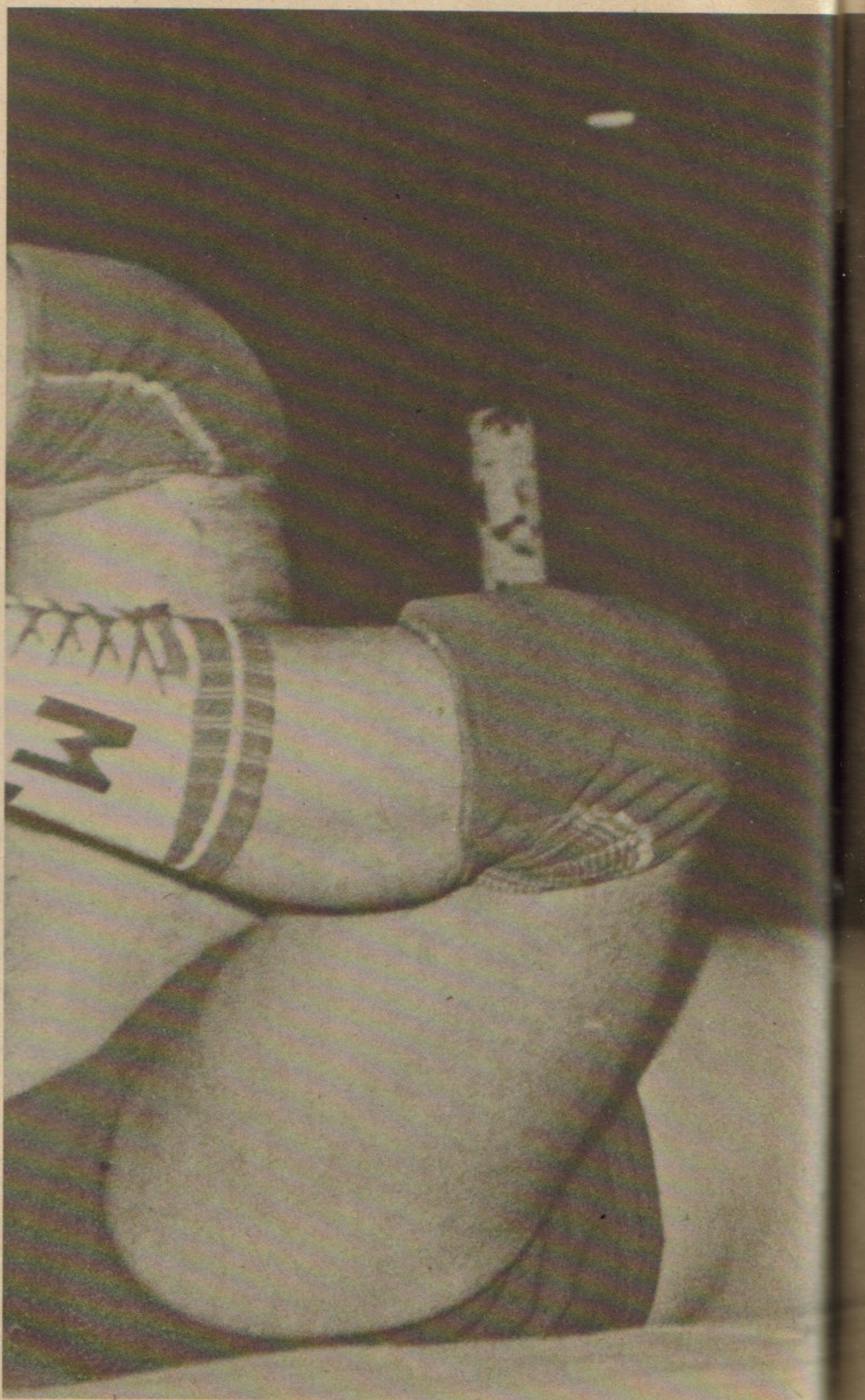
“Look at my head,” he said. “Take a close look. You know what those marks are? That’s right. Teeth marks. Now look at my leg. My arm. Same thing.”

Fernandez had just defended his Florida heavyweight title against the most unorthodox wrestler in the state, Buggy McGraw. “Unorthodox?” Fernandez questioned. “That’s putting it a little too mildly. In fact, the press calling a beast like McGraw ‘unorthodox’ just adds to the problem.

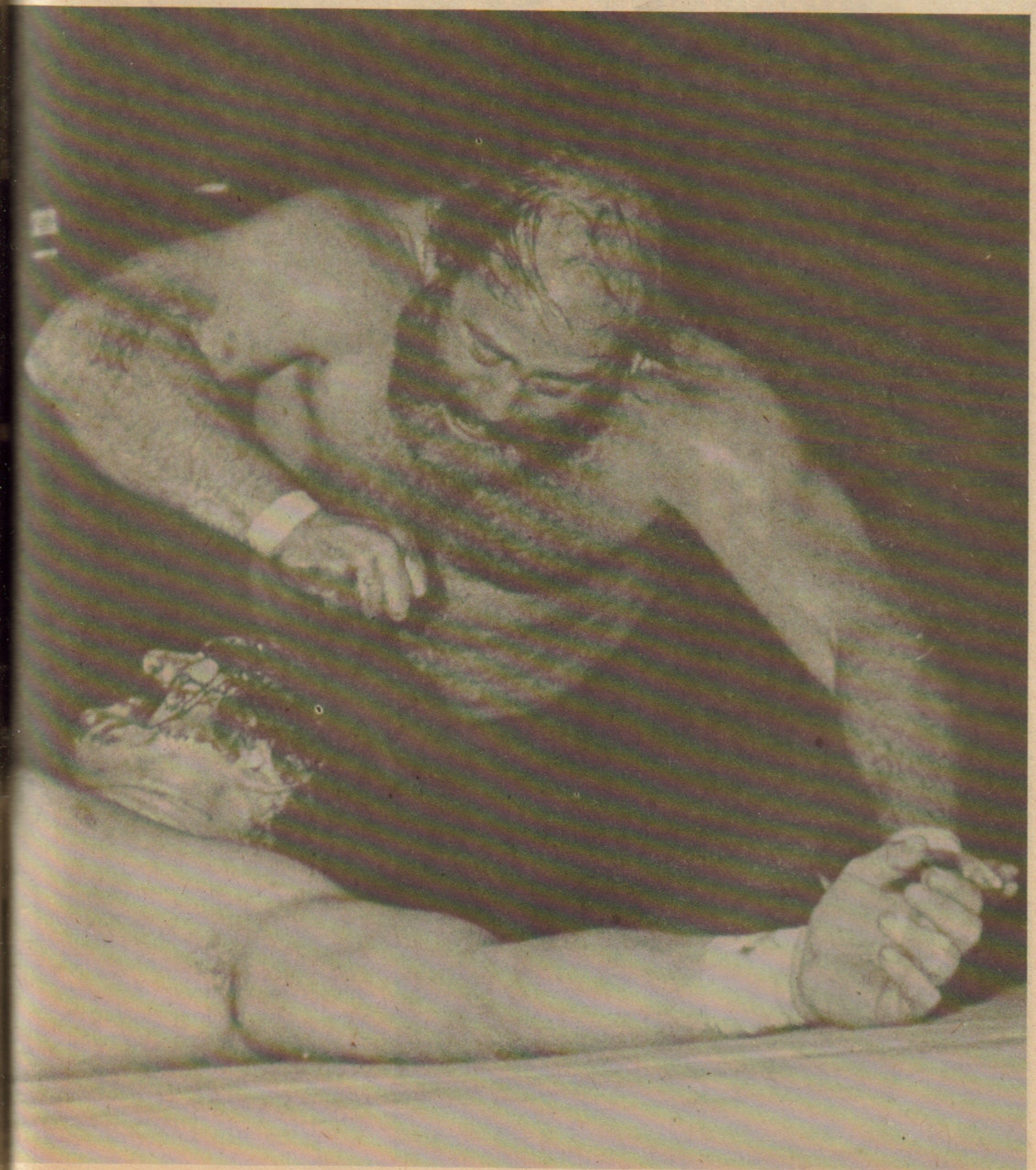
“I say tell it like it is. Expose McGraw and those like him for what they really are. Animals.

**Every few years
a young
wrestler breaks
through the ranks
with his integrity and
anger intact. Manny
Fernandez has risen
from the very bottom
to claim the Florida
heavyweight crown.**

**But he doesn’t
like what he sees.
And he is determined
to remove the
monsters from
the sport he loves**



**ANIMALS IN THIS
MUST BE TAMED!"**



Guys like McGraw, George Steele, and Abdullah the Butcher, I don't consider athletes. They know nothing of the finer points of the sport. They never consider a scientific move in their strategy. Just look at them. They climb into the ring and circle around like caged animals. Their heads twitch, their arms flail outward. They're usually not even civilized enough to wait for the bell before starting. If you're not completely on your guard, the match could be over before it even starts."

Fernandez has an extensive amateur background and although a relative newcomer to

the professional ranks, he has already established himself as one of the premier wrestlers in the world. "And when you say wrestler," Manny said, "it should be clear what you mean. You're not talking about someone who bites turnbuckles, who chokes, who gouges at your eyes. That's wrestling? Well, it's not. But the sport *is still* called wrestling and, unfortunately there is very little that stops a man from using those tactics."

"I am a wrestler. I'm proud that I can go in the ring, use my strength, use my leverage, use my knowledge of holds to put my opponent down. I don't have to maim a man to beat him.

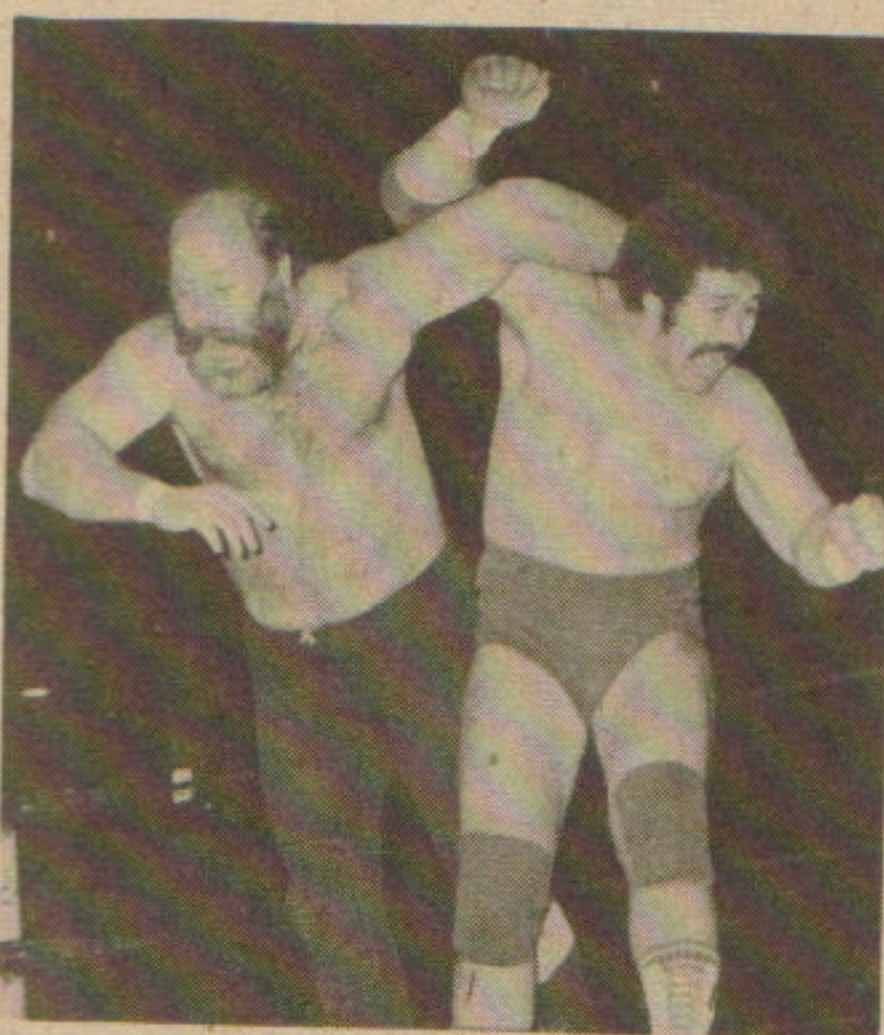
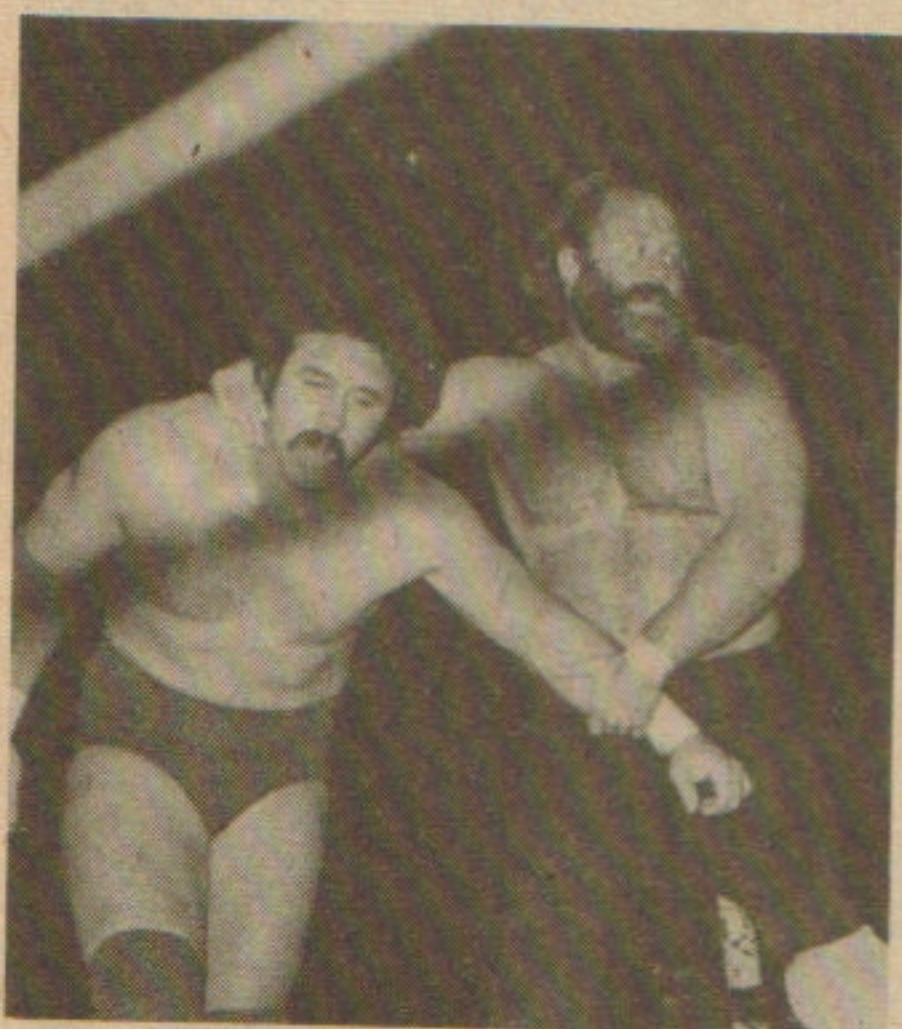
Those animals do. Did you ever see Buggy McGraw win with a scientific hold? No. He is incapable. The only way he can beat his opponent is to hurt him so badly that he can't get up.

"It's this kind of thing that will eventually destroy this great sport. The more the commissions allow, the more wrestlers will suffer permanent injuries. What happens when so many wrestlers are hurt that there are not enough to go around? Then it will hit the officials where it hurts most and some changes will be made."

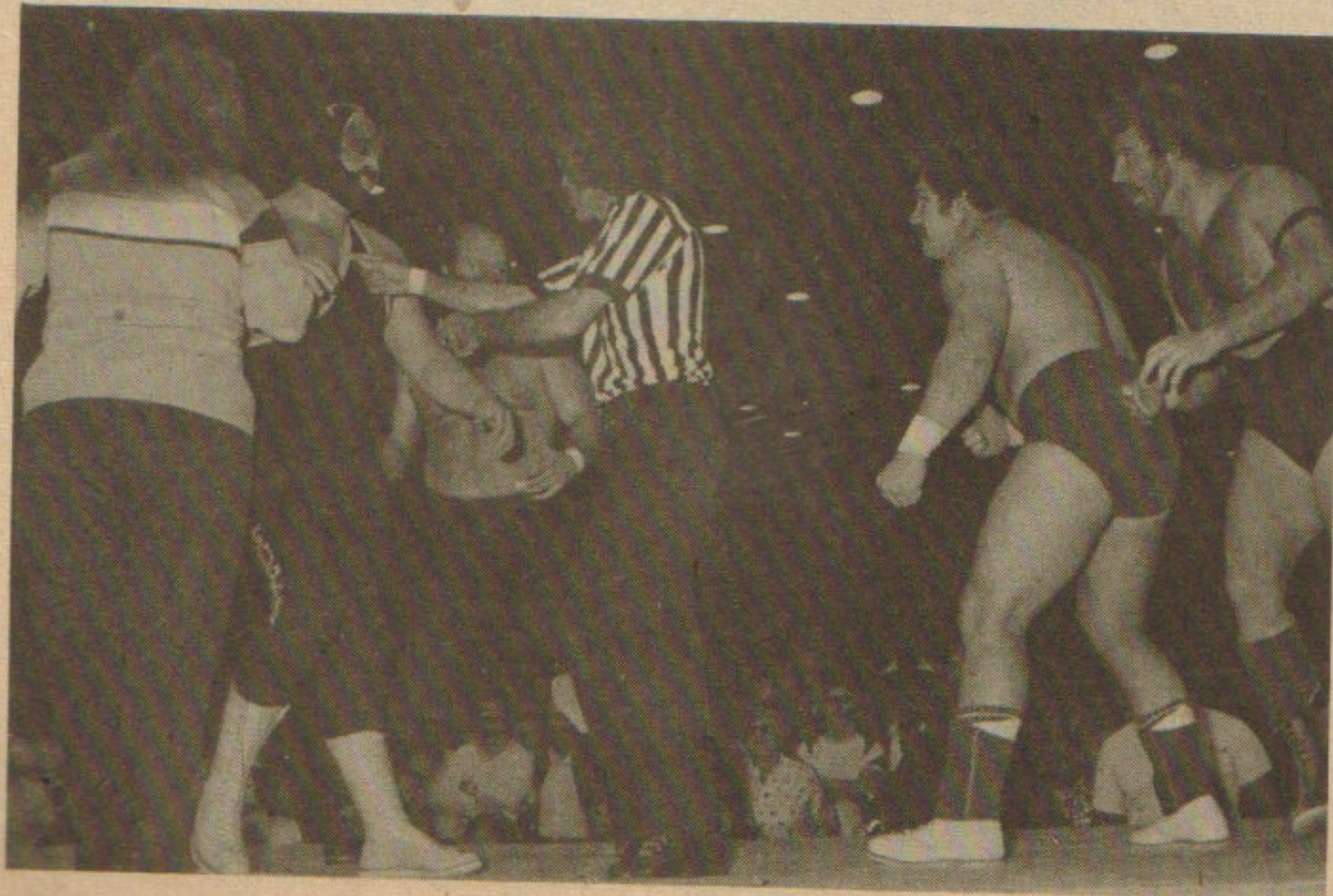
Fernandez believes that there is a place for the "brawler" in the sport. "I'm not saying that everybody should wrestle the same way," he said. "By no means do I mean to imply that everybody should be like me. One of the most intriguing aspects of this sport is the divergence of styles. Take a guy like Harley Race, for instance. He's not a personal favorite of mine, but I do have respect for the man. He's a tough guy and he uses that toughness to win matches. He's a brawler. But you'll never see him bring an object into the ring or bite anybody in the head. I don't mind people like Race at all. When you wrestle him, you know you're going to take your lumps, but you also know that you'll be back in that ring again. With maniacs like McGraw, Steele, Brower, the Butcher, you never have that assurance.

"There is no place for men like that in this sport. Men? I shouldn't even call them that. They are animals. And the animals in this sport must be tamed! It can be done. But I can't do it alone. I'm going to need help from all of my colleagues, those who care about the future of this sport."

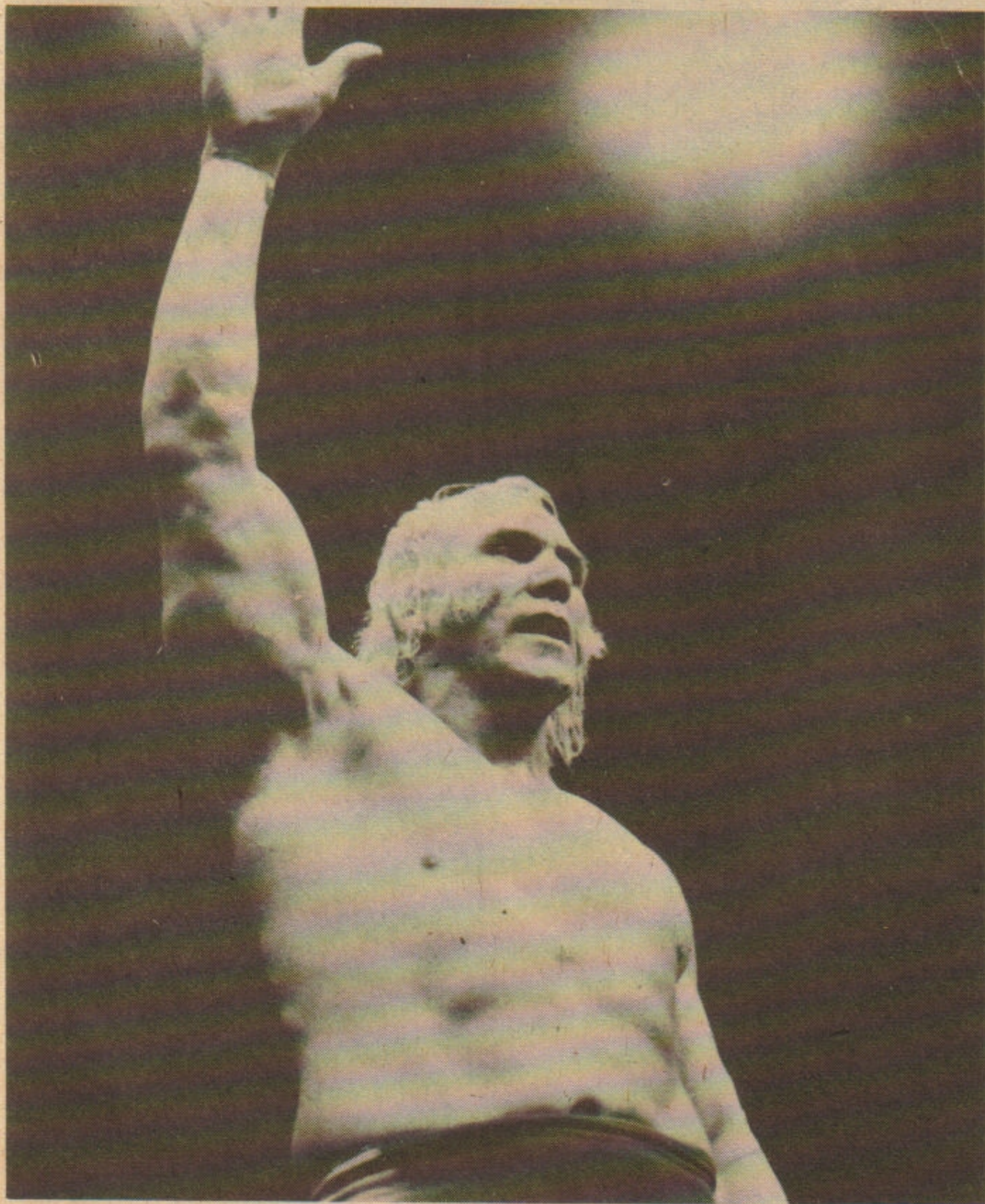
A group that is decreasing rapidly. □



Florida champion Manny Fernandez would like to see the wrestling commissions take a stronger stand on controlling the so-called animals of the sport. Above left: Buggy McGraw whips Manny across the ring. Above right: Manny sends Buggy to the mat. Below: Sir Oliver Humperdink, Super Destroyer and McGraw confront Manny and Mike Graham.



SUPERSTAR GRAHAM— BOUNTY HUNTER FOR THE FANS



A PILE OF checks and dollar bills were strewn across Superstar Billy Graham's wide oak desk. Carefully fingering each slip of paper, Graham grinned, clasped his huge hands behind his head and leaned back in the chair.

"My fans," said Graham, gesturing at the money. "These are my devoted fans, the ones who understand and appreciate genius, skill and courage. And these wonderful fans know how to reward and inspire. With money. Lots and lots of money."

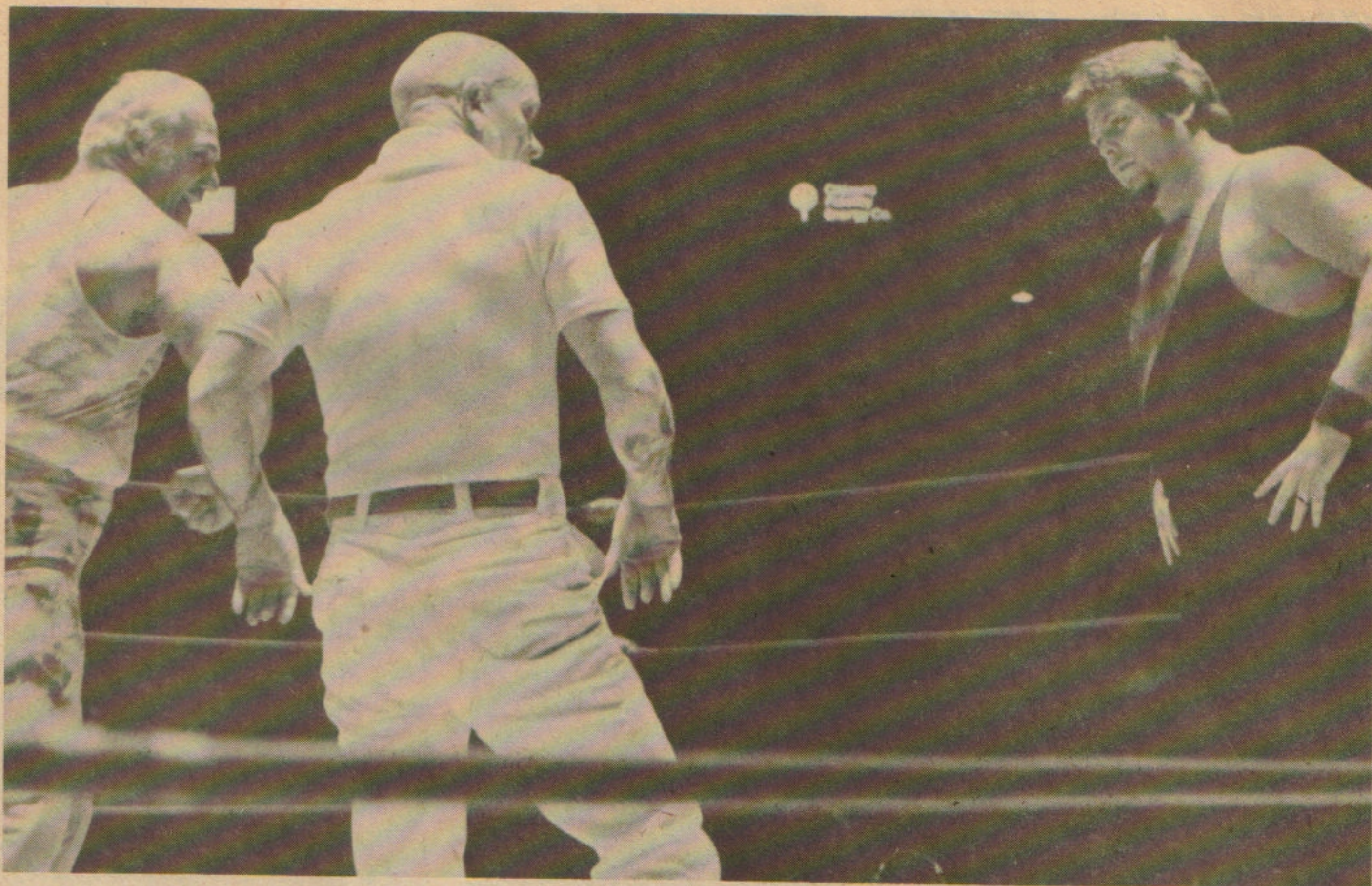
Superstar Graham calling fans *wonderful*? Can this be the man who sneered at fans throughout his entire career? The man who defaced the WWF title until he lost the belt to Bob Backlund?

"I'm the same as always," said Graham, grinning.

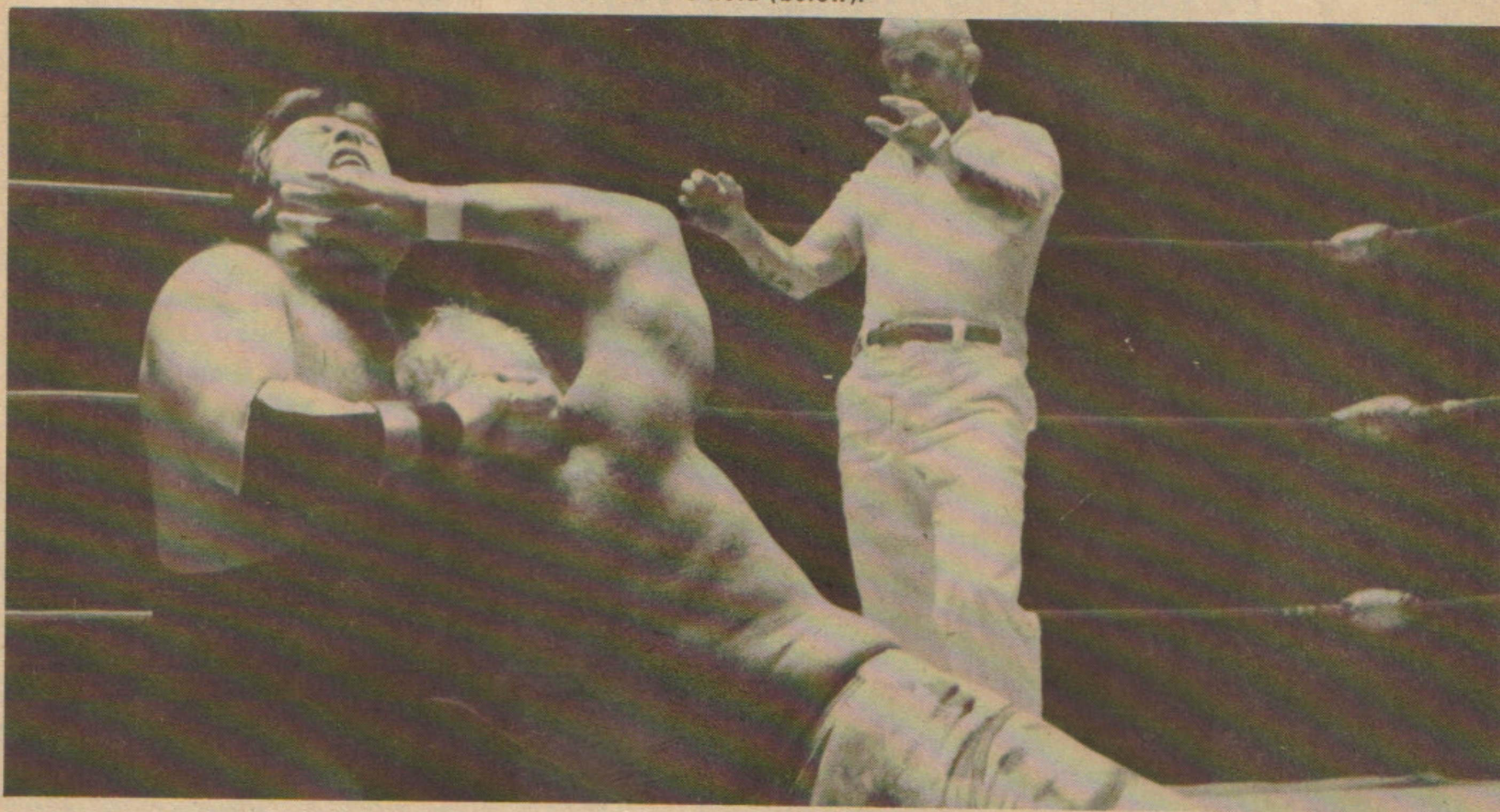
Since leaving the WWF, Graham has wrestled in many different areas around the nation. Sometimes he wrestles bad guy, sometimes he wrestles good guys. He has become utterly unpredictable. Or has he?

"I wrestle for money," Graham said simply. "Whichever group of fans gives me the most money is my

Some men wrestle for glory. Others for the sheer sadistic pleasure of twisting a man's head around and around. Superstar Billy Graham has done both, but is currently grappling for a colder, potentially more dangerous reason: greed



The referee keeps Graham and Lawler apart (above). Lawler clamps on a headlock, but Graham's powerful arms break the hold (below).



boss. If a bunch of fans come up with the dough for me to, say, uh, break open Bruno Sammartino's skull, then I will.

"Of if I get a fat check from people who want Jerry Lawler's face torn to shreds, then they're my boss. Don't matter to me as long as

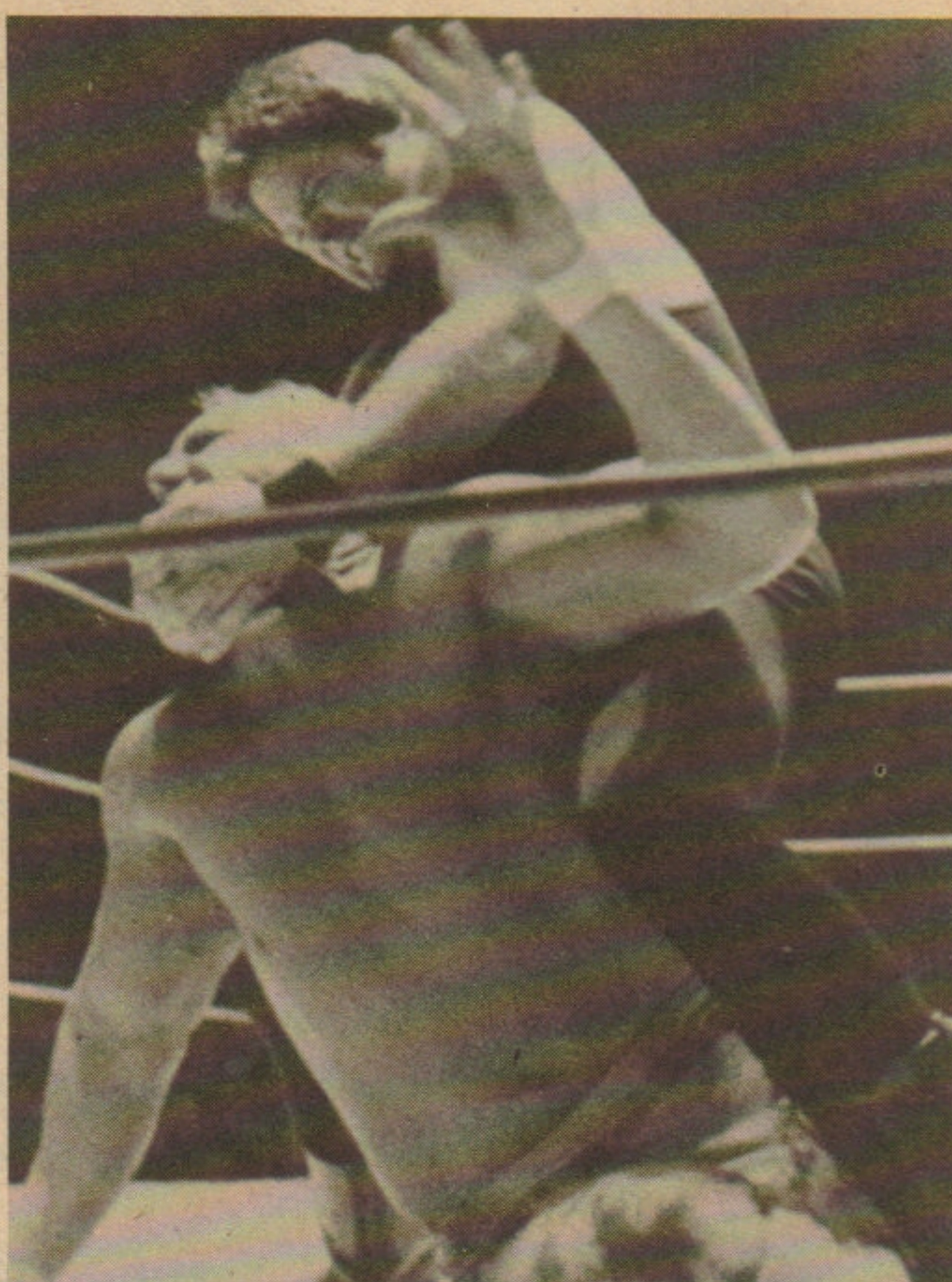
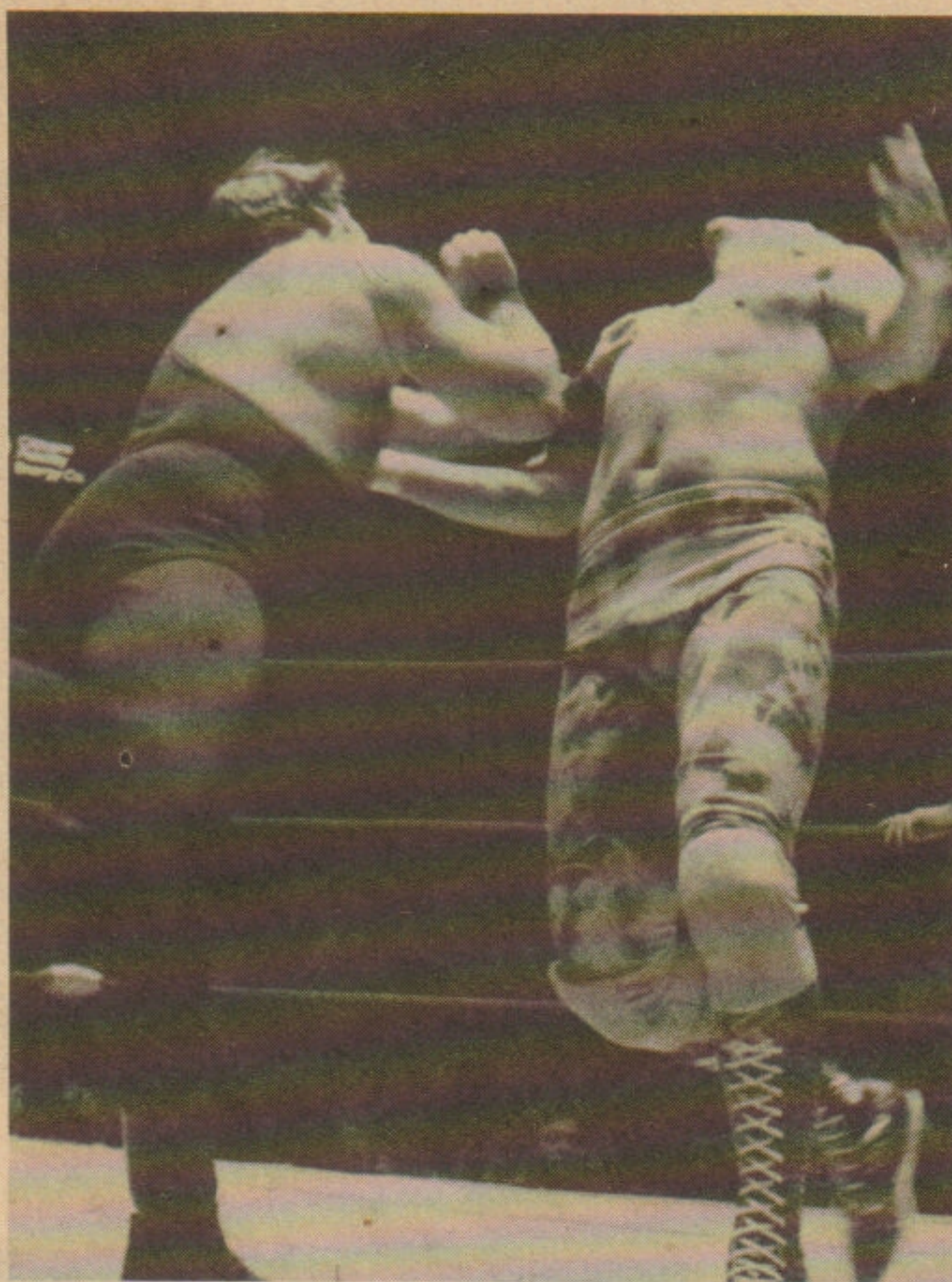
I get paid. A wimp is a wimp. If someone wants him stretched out, then out he goes. Just as long as they pay me and pay me good," said Graham.

Graham explained how he became a "bounty hunter."

"This was a few weeks after

Backlund stole my title," said Graham, wincing at the recollection. "I decided to relax and get away from things for a while. I thought I'd tan my beautiful body, rest and figure out where I was goin' next.

"I got a letter from a bunch of



Though Lawler is in command with a forearm smash (above left) and a chinlock (above right), Graham calls him a "slimy prelim bum."

fans who'd followed my career," continued Graham. "They told me all about this fiend who was breakin' heads. Now I knew who this guy was, what he was like and all. I almost considered him a friend, so I wasn't about to run right in and break his skull wide open.

"I wrote these fans back and explained how I wasn't goin' to obliterate someone who was almost a friend of mine. These fans were awfully persistent, let me tell you. They wrote me again, this time enclosing a check. That check," Graham pointed to a framed photo copy of the check.

"The bread was good, the dude was a bum and I needed the action. Why the hell not, huh?" Graham said, shrugging.

"Word got out that the greatest wrestler in the world, myself, was available to beat and bloody and all sorts of fun things if the price were right. Letters poured in from all over the world, fans beggin' me to get rid of this one or that, teach

this bum a lesson, that bum a lesson, so on and all.

"I prefer this. I have more freedom this way. I'm not bound in one area or the other. I don't grow bored with the wrestlers I'd have to face night after night. This way, I go where I want, when I want. Long as the numbers make me smile and sing."

One wrestler so convulsed Graham with hatred that he seriously considered returning the money. That lasted for a few minutes.

"Jerry Lawler," said Graham, turning the name over in his mouth like a hunk of eight-week old sour cream. "He really is a bum. I mean, how can I even consider gettin' in the same ring with such a bum. It is beneath me, the Superstar, the greatest there ever was or can ever be, me, Superstar wrestling a hairy, slimy prelim bum."

But the money . . .

"Money is fine. Lawler should understand the thousands of fans who want his head atop a steel

pike, who want his blood streamin' down his cheeks and outta the ring and into the streets," said Graham, taken away by the thought. "Lawler should know how hated he has become. He should know what is gonna happen to his ugly face.

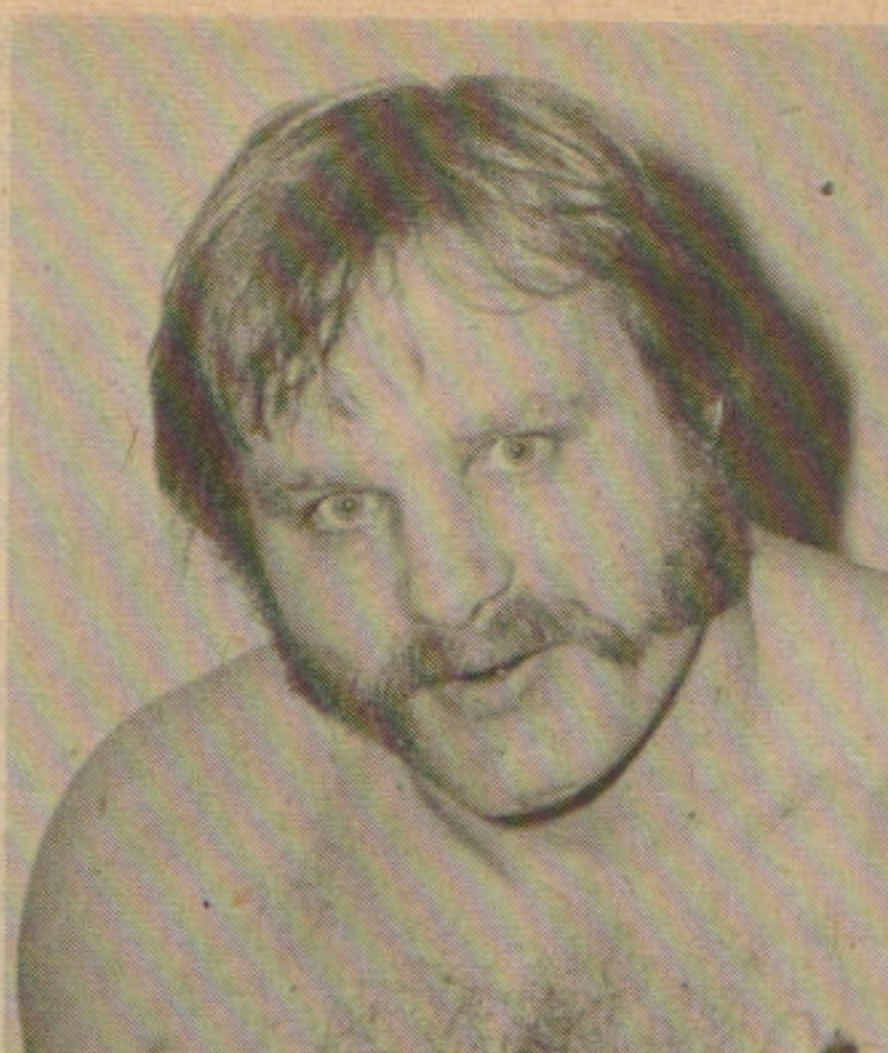
"I love wrestlin' bums like him. Most wrestlers are bums. Few give me much practice, at all. Most of 'em just kinda slip slide away the moment I hit 'em in the face. And I feel sorry for 'em.

"But when I'm the bounty hunter for the fans, I show no mercy. I am cruel and totally ruthless. I will finish a man as easy as I'll take another glass of milk.

"Yup, Lawler is a goner, finished, through, kiss his head good-bye 'cause the rest of him belongs to me," said Graham, smiling broadly.

Graham hates Lawler so much he even contemplated the unthinkable.

"I might consider whippin' him for free," said Graham. □



Ivan Koloff vs Ole Anderson:

BATTLE TO

How much can a man take before he must stand firm against the dread tidal wave of oppression? Ole Anderson made his stand. He wouldn't permit Ivan Koloff's avaricious tyranny to take over Georgia. For Anderson, war was a deadly step away

OLE ANDERSON IS not naive. He's been through his share of wrestling wars, has seen both the ugly and pretty side of wrestling. He's been stabbed in the back, betrayed, bloodied, and beaten. And he's stabbed, mutilated, and crippled. All in a night's work.

Nor did Anderson have any illusions about Ivan Koloff. He didn't think the Russian could be trusted. Oh, he received assurances about peace. Anderson wanted to believe those assurances. He didn't see where a megawar between two powerful wrestlers could help Georgia wrestling.

So Anderson had to look beyond the obvious signs and think of the future. The Russian had attacked him, causing

immediate provocation and a brutal response. But the Russian expected that. He wouldn't have committed such a sordid crime if he didn't think Anderson would retaliate. Koloff was after a big fight.

As a result of Koloff and his cohorts assault, Anderson declared war. Yet it was an uneasy war, one fought as much through proxy warriors as between Koloff and Anderson. Men like Killer Karl Kox and Masked Superstar were sent against Anderson, at Koloff's command.

The valiant American beat them off. Despite his war, Anderson remained unpopular with the fans. They didn't think he had the courage nor substance to stand up to the

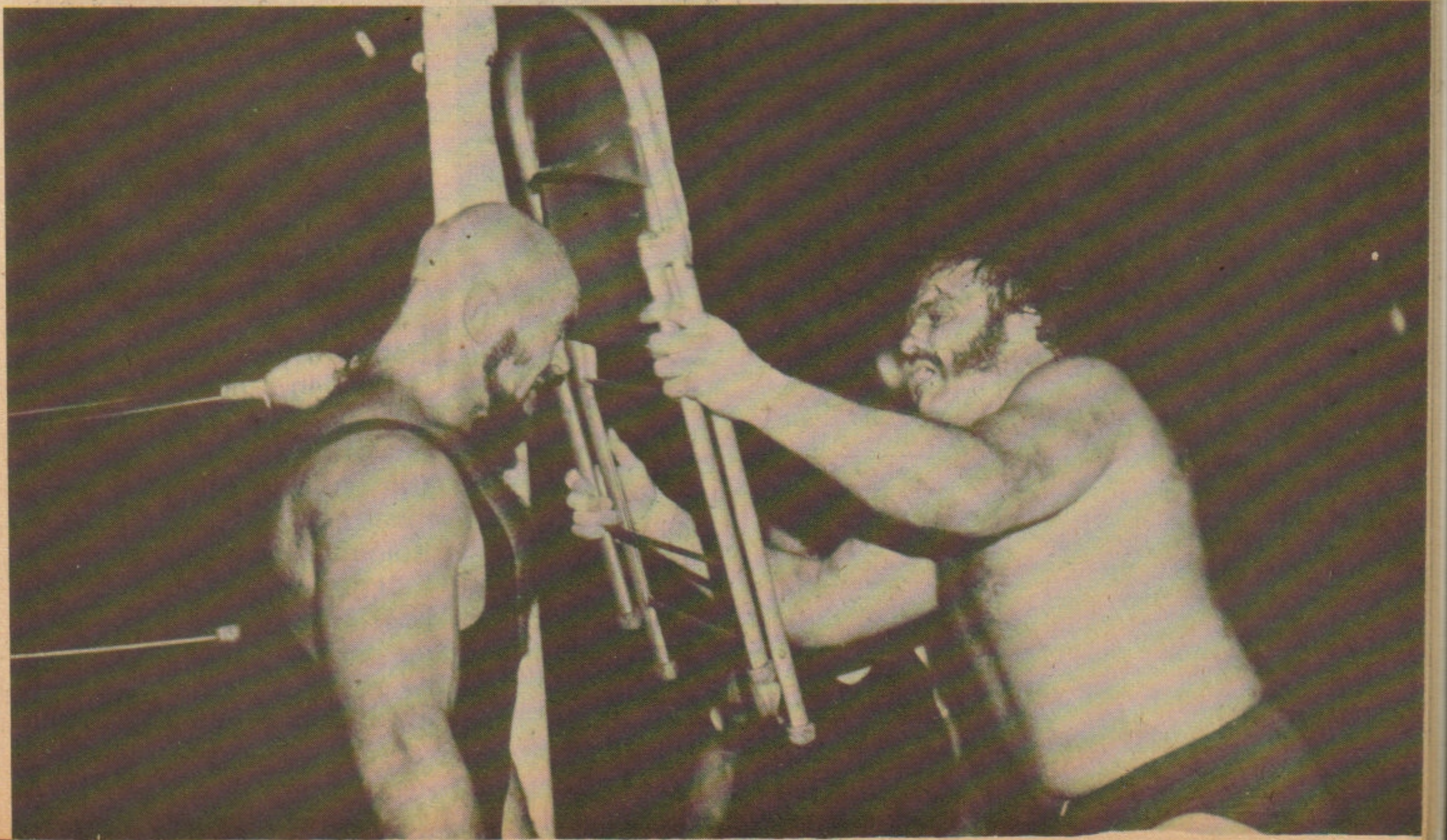
foul Russian. Slowly, his popularity rose.

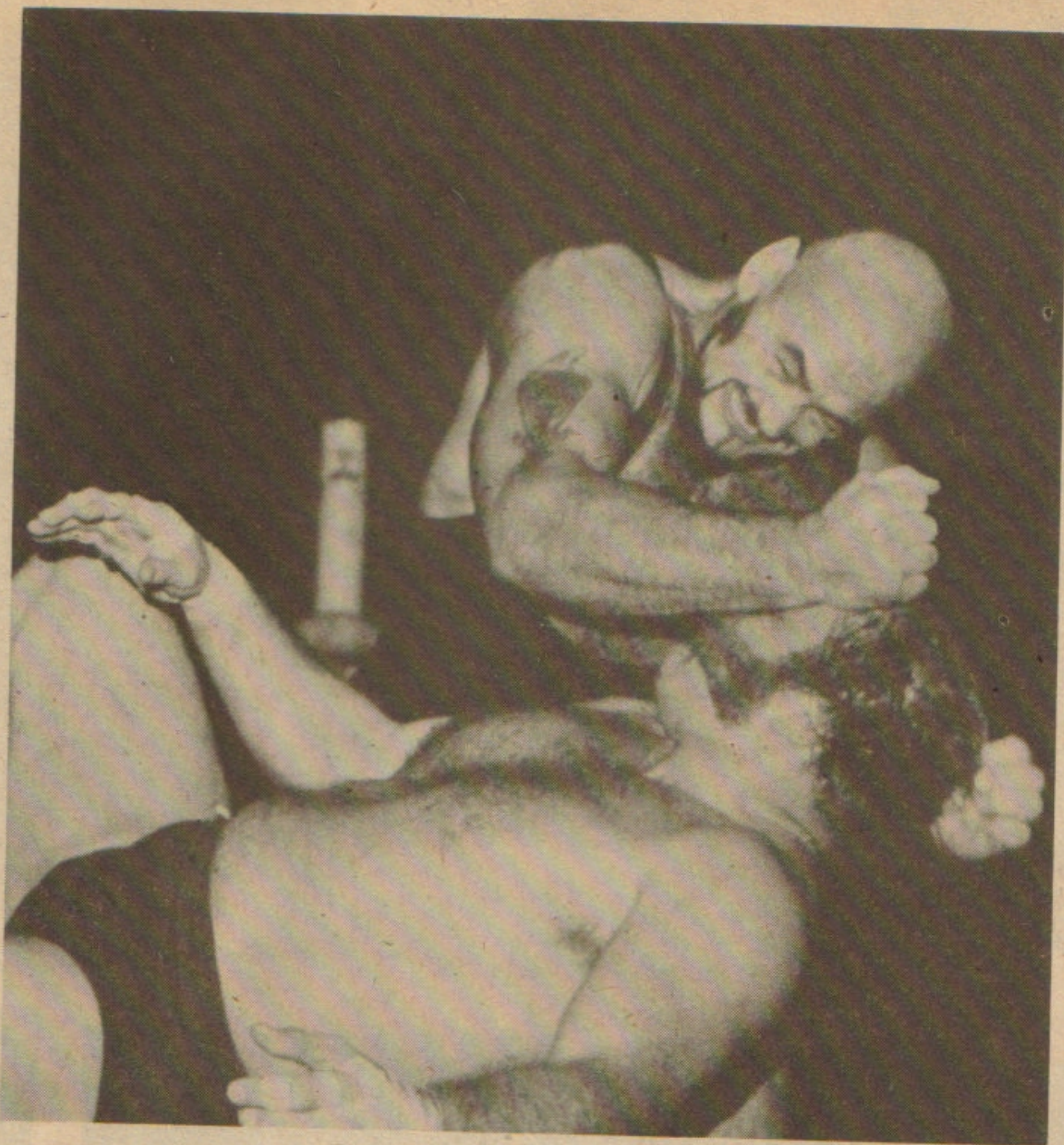
Each match, the decided, stubborn set of his proud face increased fan support. Each match more fans rose and cheered his name. Earlier discussion of another substituting for Anderson in this brutal war against the Russian quieted. A special favorite, Mr. Wrestling II was touted as a possible rival. But fans saw how Anderson had grown, how his past cruelty had softened, his ruthlessness tempered, his character matured.

"My impression of rule-breakers has changed more in the past few weeks than in all my career," said Anderson. "I never underestimated the Russian. I knew his potential for

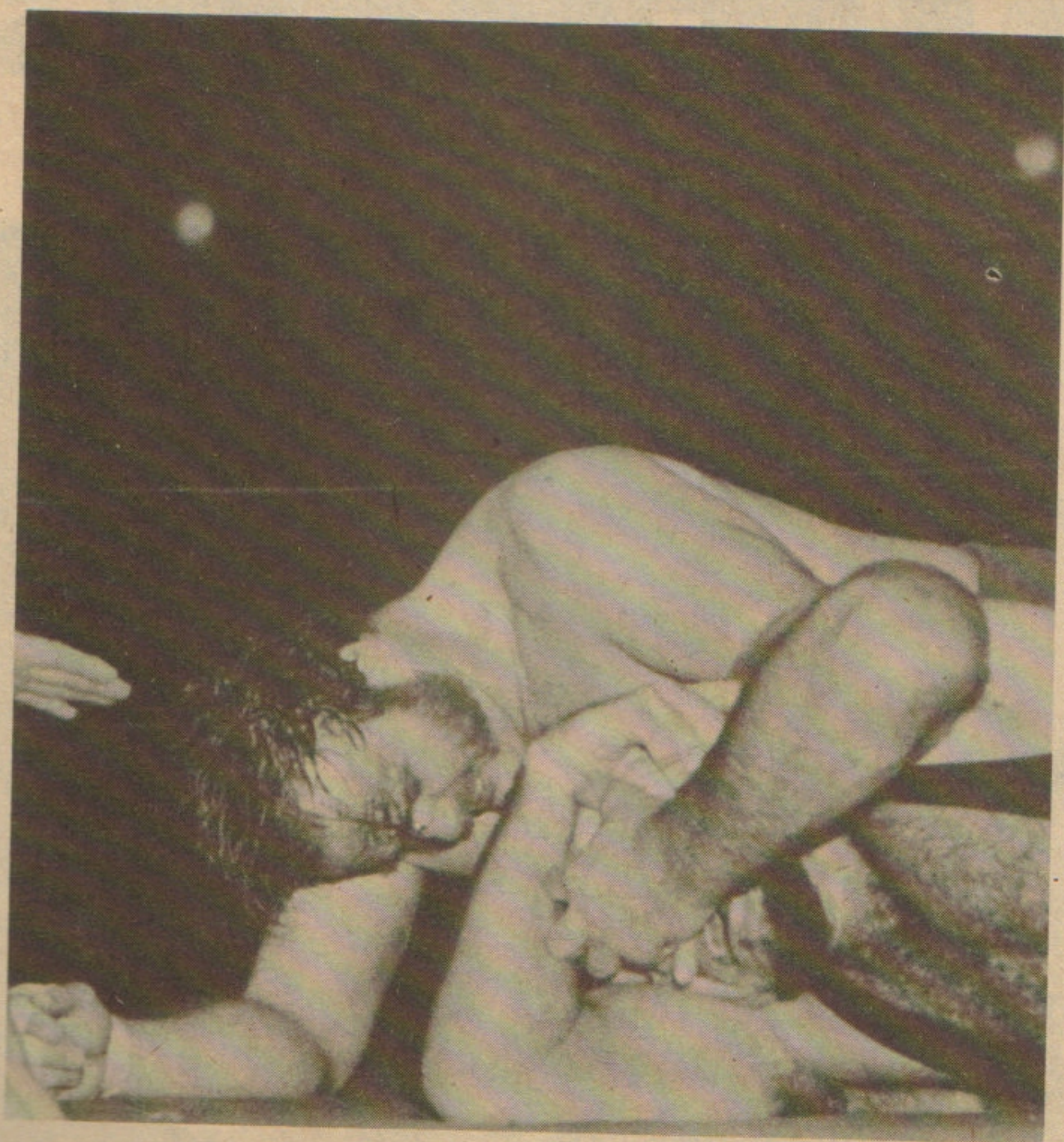


THE DEATH!





Ivan Koloff pounds Ole Anderson's head (top left), but Anderson gains the upper hand and rips at the Russian's eyes (below left) as Georgia's most fiery feud rages on.



evil. And I knew we had a cold war going.

"But Georgia is big enough for both wrestlers. There was no need for him to launch that attack. And he did it so sneakily. Wearing a mask, then insisting one of his comrades, a rulebreaker, had invited him in to wrestle me.

"Everyone knew Koloff didn't need any urging to launch a cowardly war. He thought this cowardly act would gain him greater power in Georgia. The Russian was very wrong. He didn't count on my allies."

Within days of this senseless attack, the Georgia wrestling community rose up as one to denounce Koloff's mad adventurism.

"Ole Anderson has my complete support in anything he must do to beat back the Russian," said Tommy Rich.

"Ole can count on me," said Mr. Wrestling II.

"A stand must be taken somewhere along the line," said Tim "Mr. Wrestling" Woods. "First it's Ole, next it's one of us."

"An attack on Ole must be considered an attack on all scientific wrestlers. What reaction Anderson takes I will personally support," said Bob Armstrong.

Wearing a mask and sneak-attacking Anderson was the final indignity. Immediately, Ole issued stringent, harsh measures designed to punish Koloff for his treachery.

"I have asked Georgia wrestling officials to ensure that no masked man be permitted to wrestle without proper identification," said Anderson.

(Continued on page 63)

DORY FUNK JR.:

MOST OF THE world was asleep. The diner was empty except for a few street stragglers. Standing out like a pearl before swine was Dory Funk Jr., talking to a friend.

The words weren't coming easy for this veteran mat star. Earlier that night, in a match against the beloved Mighty Igor, the fans had booed Dory. Once he had been NWA champion. Once he'd been the most respected wrestler in the world. Now the fans booed him. He tried to organize his thoughts as he sipped the bitter coffee.

"I don't care if they boo me," Dory said evenly, "as I can't live my life by what the fans want. I'll admit I don't like it. Still, I can get used to it."

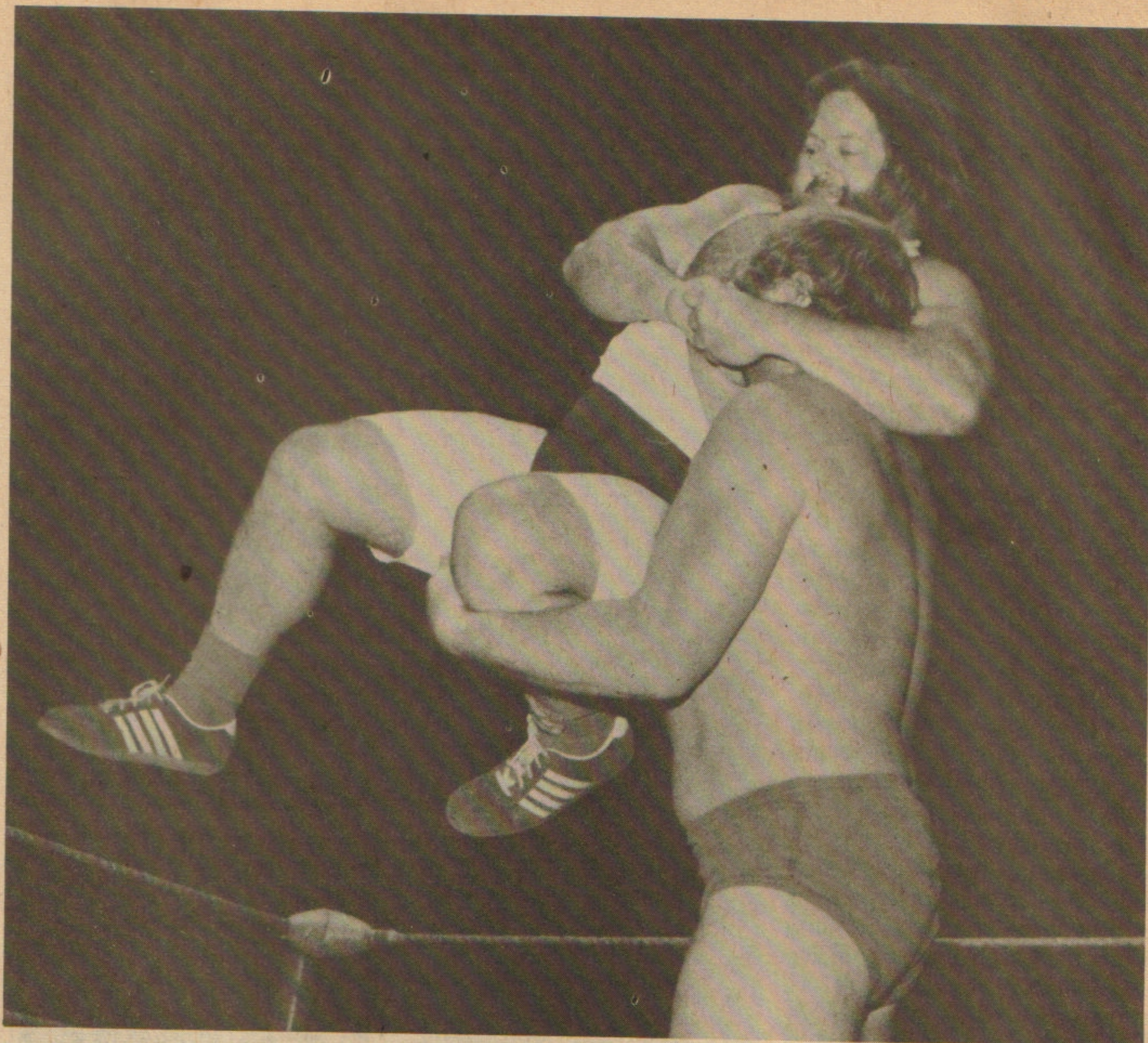
"Why do it?" his friend implored. "You didn't have to wrestle Igor. There was nothing to be gained by it. You could've wrestled a dozen guys and had the fans on your side. Why are you driving them away from you?"

Instead of answering, Dory watched an aged bum try to sneak out without paying for his tea and doughnut. The manager, twice the bum's size, was threatening the hobo with a beating. The tramp seemed to disappear into his oversized

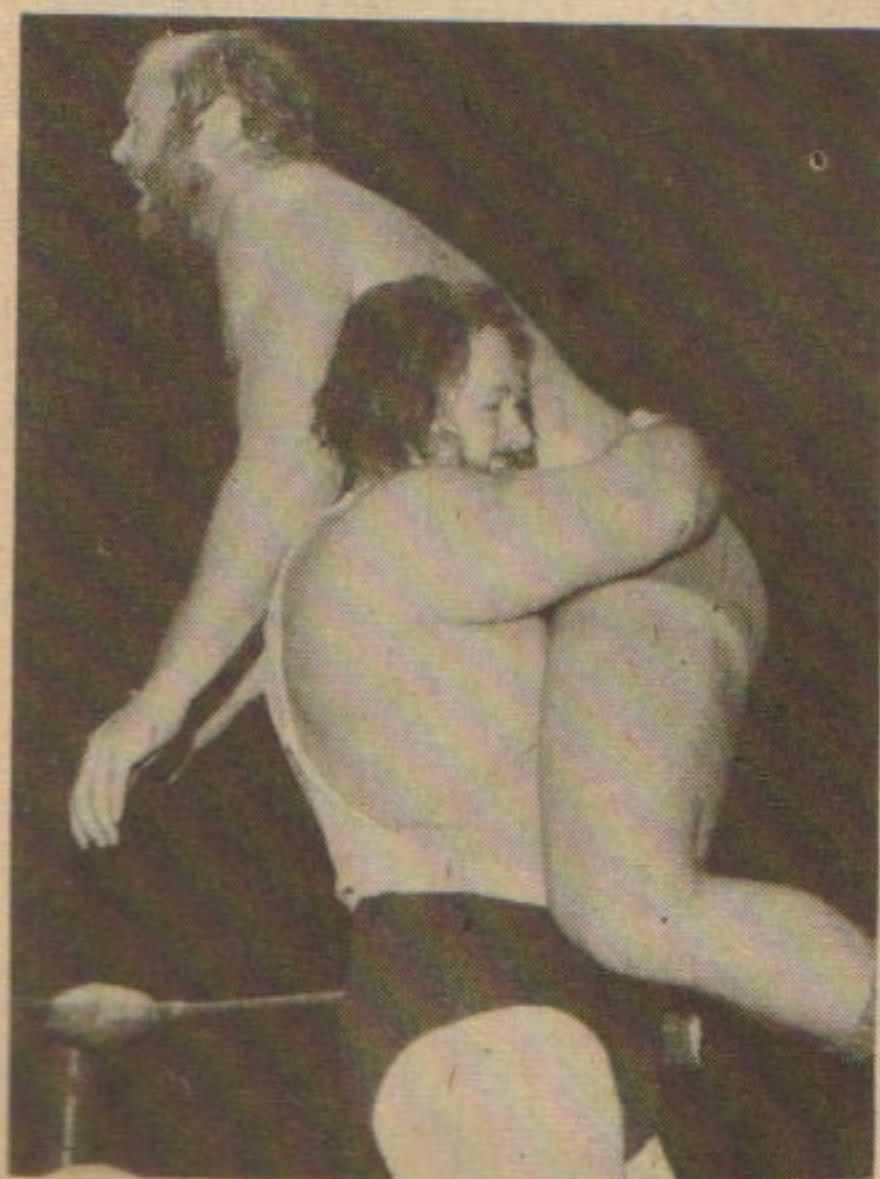


IS HE MORE HATED THAN HIS BROTHER TERRY?

Dory Funk Jr. has always been respected for his tough fairness. His relationship with the fans has been one of grudging admiration. All that has changed. Hatred is now in Dory Funk Jr.'s corner



Dory Funk Jr. lifts Igor in an attempt to escape a headlock (above). Dory gasps for air as Igor mightily applies a bear-hug (below).



clothes like a turtle retreating into his shell.

"I'll pay his bill," Dory told the manager.

"Don't bother," the manager said. "If you pay for him, he'll come back again and expect someone else to pay his bill. I don't want him around. And I want him to know it!"

"I said I'll pay," Dory hissed. The manager took the wrestler's money without saying another word.

Dory sat back down. "See what that tramp did," he asked. "He took what he wanted—or needed—and worried about the consequences later. He and I are alike in a way. I'm doing what I want. I don't care about

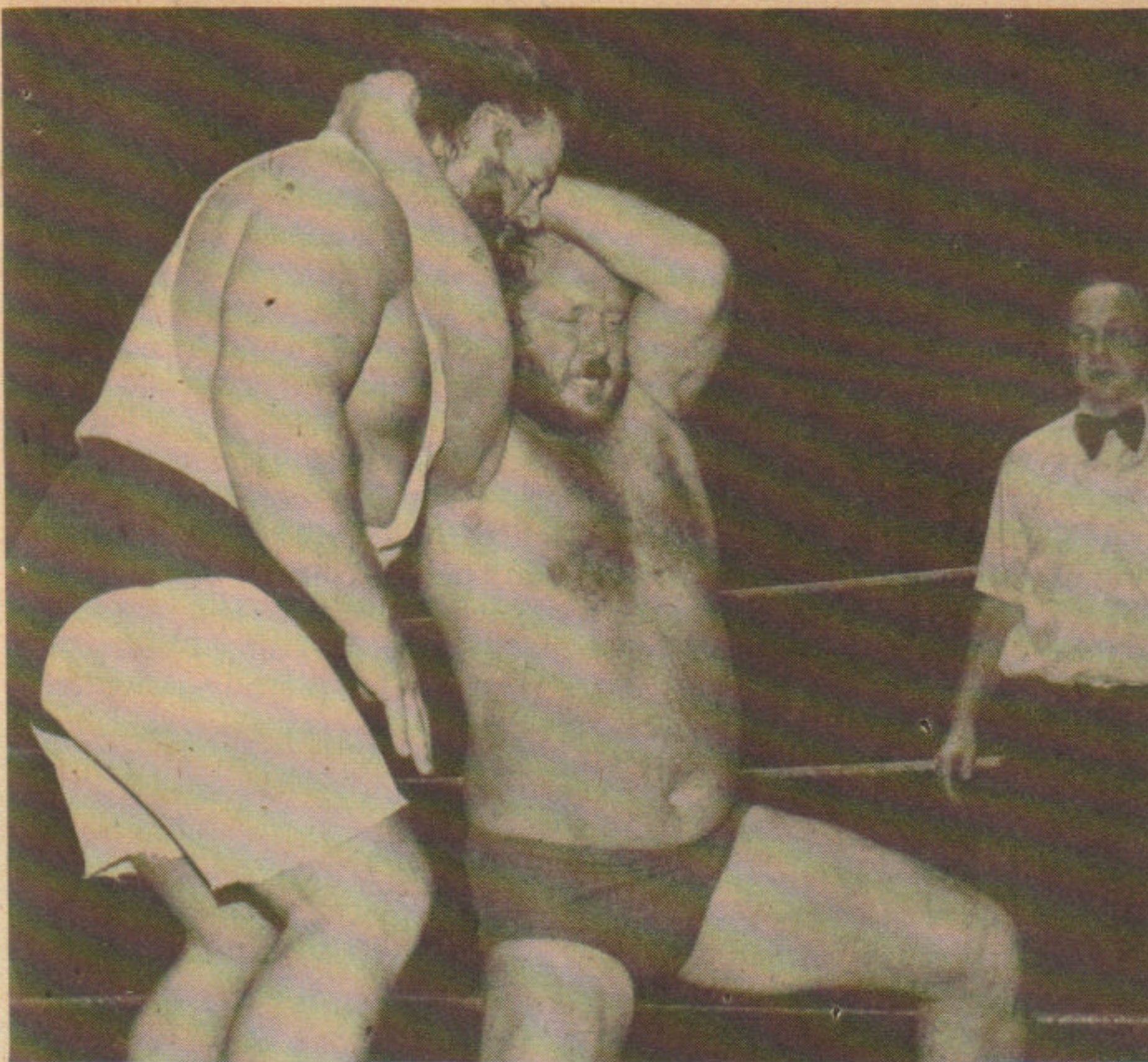
the consequences.

"I'll wrestle who I want, when I want. I don't care what people think. I don't care what the consequences will be. Maybe there'll be some guy like that manager who can drive me out forever. I'll take my chances."

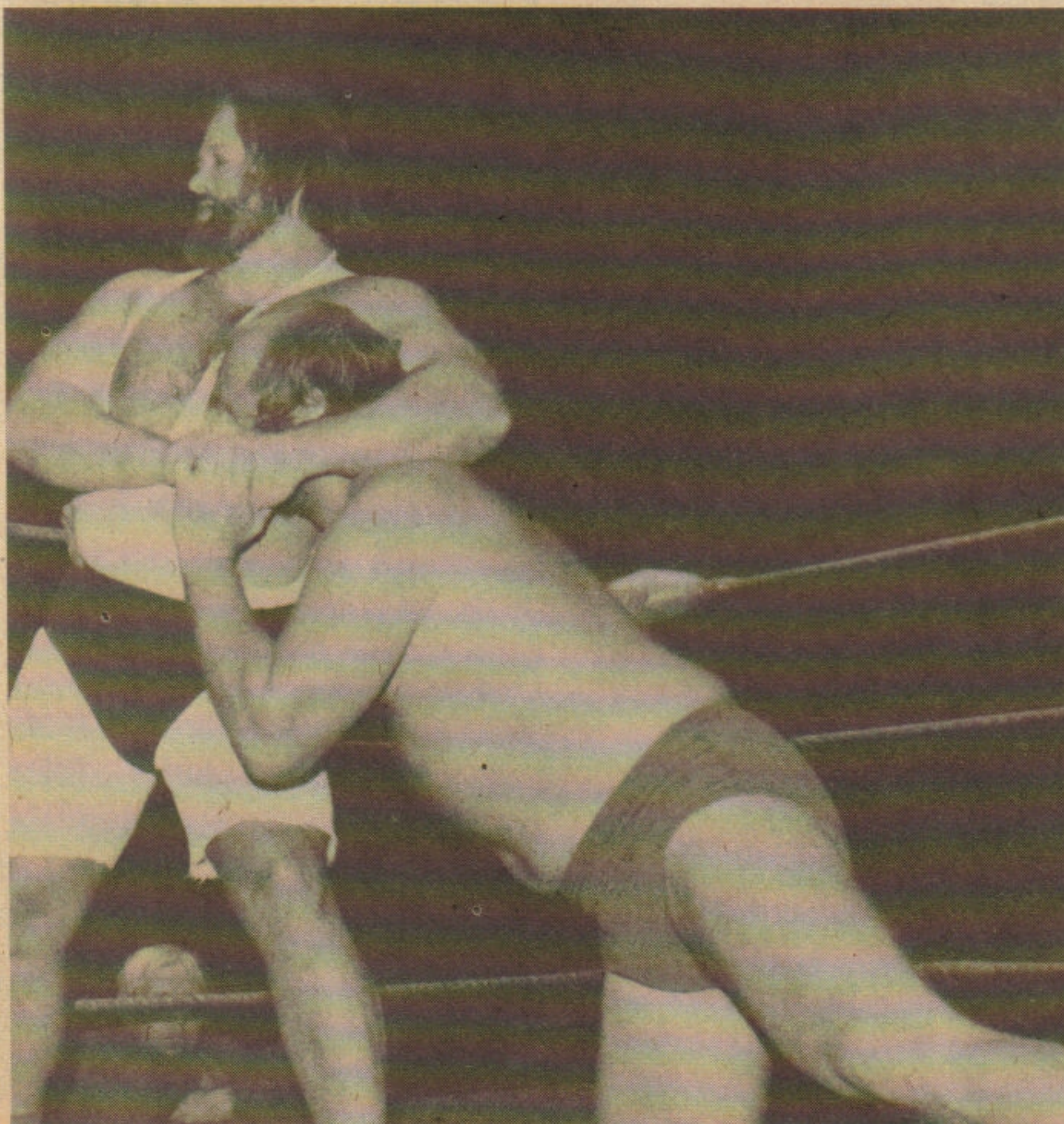
"You might wind up more hated than your brother, Terry," the friend joked.

Dory didn't get the joke. "Oh, I'll be more hated than Terry. Terry is a wildman sometimes. You can't really despise a wildman. I'm a rational man in full control. I stand by my decisions. I'll be hated more than Terry within the year."

"That's stupid," his friend argued.



Funk snapmares Igor (above) and tries to pry his way out of a headlock (below). The former NWA champion is growing more and more hated, but he doesn't mind. He claims it is the price he must pay to get back to the top. "I've got to be an outlaw, a loner, a man on my own. I can't afford to care," he said.



"No, it's not. Being hated is one of the chances I've got to take."

"But why?"

Dory was silent for a long while as he tried to form an explanation for his strange decision. He didn't realize that he was shredding his napkin.

"When I started wrestling, I thought I knew what I wanted. Then, over the years, things worked out real well for me. I've had more titles than most, even NWA champion, and my den is filled with trophies. But something is missing. I don't know what it is, but I know I've got to find it. What this whole thing—wrestling and life—is all about. The answer is out there. If I haven't found it yet, then I've got to do something else. If that means being hated, that's the risk I've got to take.

"No one lives forever. I've got to find out the answer before I retire. I can't let anyone tell me how to find what I'm looking for.

"I've done what you're supposed to do. It's not enough. I've got to be an outlaw, a loner, a man on my own. Let them hate me. I can't afford to care."

The two men sat silent for awhile. "You're looking for the secret of life!" Dory's friend finally exclaimed.

"No," Dory said with a smile, "I'm just trying to find the secret of my life."

"That's the same thing."

"Maybe."

The two men sat silent again. Wordlessly, they got up and paid their bill. The manager of the diner walked over to them.

"I don't want to see you back here," he said.

Dory looked angry for an instant, then smiled. "Join the crowd," Dory said softly, "join the crowd. It doesn't matter to me what you want."

Dory left the diner alone. □



By TOSHI SUZUMA
Special Correspondent

HIS HUGE SPECTER casts its shadow over all others. Andre the Giant reigns supreme wherever he appears. Yet the grapplers of an entire nation, the home of the martial arts, are determined to end this legendary career.

Many Japanese wrestlers have found themselves committed to driving Andre the Giant from wrestling. More than 2,000 years of tradition have dictated this decision. For the sake of Baba the Giant, Andre cannot remain a grappler.

One of wrestling's living legends, Andre the Giant, stands ready to be introduced (left) while on tour in Japan. The match is a tough one for the Giant as he is double-teamed by Hoshino and Sakaguchi (right). Was this part of the plot to destroy Andre?

"It's very hard," Antonio Inoki says, "to explain this to the western mind. Being an island nation, we have a sense of national pride which was necessary for us to develop if we wished to survive. It has become a large part of our social structure. It even determines, to a great degree, how we think. If a national figure is threatened, we are compelled to repel the threat at any cost."

"Baba is this kind of national figure. He has occupied a special place in our wrestling culture. He has made certain claims, most of which he has substantiated. However, as long as Andre wrestles, his glory is diminished."

"We can't even control how we feel

PHOTOS BY KOICHI YOSHIZAWA



IS THERE A SECRET JAPANESE PLAN TO DESTROY ANDRE THE GIANT?

about it. We could just as easily stop breathing as not attempt to aid Baba.

Of course, Baba can easily defend himself. He doesn't need us. However, we're obligated by more than 2,000 years of tradition to help him. It's like trying to explain why a samurai would commit hari-kiri. No matter how hard you try, a western mind can't understand why he does it. To the eastern sensibility, no explanation is necessary.

"Baba can't even tell us not to help him. He doesn't have that choice! We are all victims of something that happened 2,000 years ago. Of course, the biggest victim of all has to be Andre."

Has Andre the Giant become so big he now threatens an entire country? The answer seems to be yes!

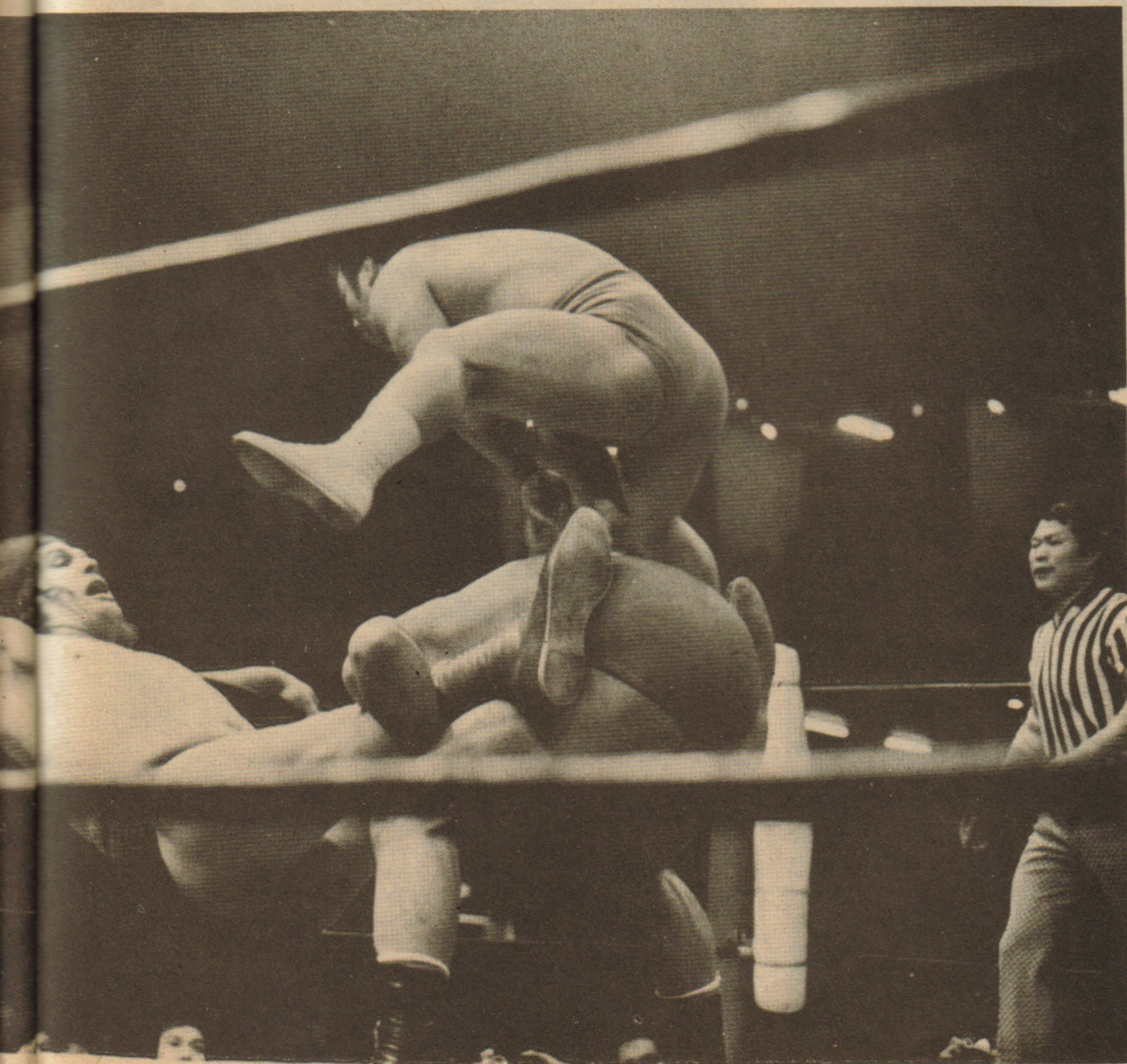
Inoki may not relish the destruction of Andre, but he's passionately committed to driving the gigantic grappler from the sport. However, there are others who couldn't be happier about their task.

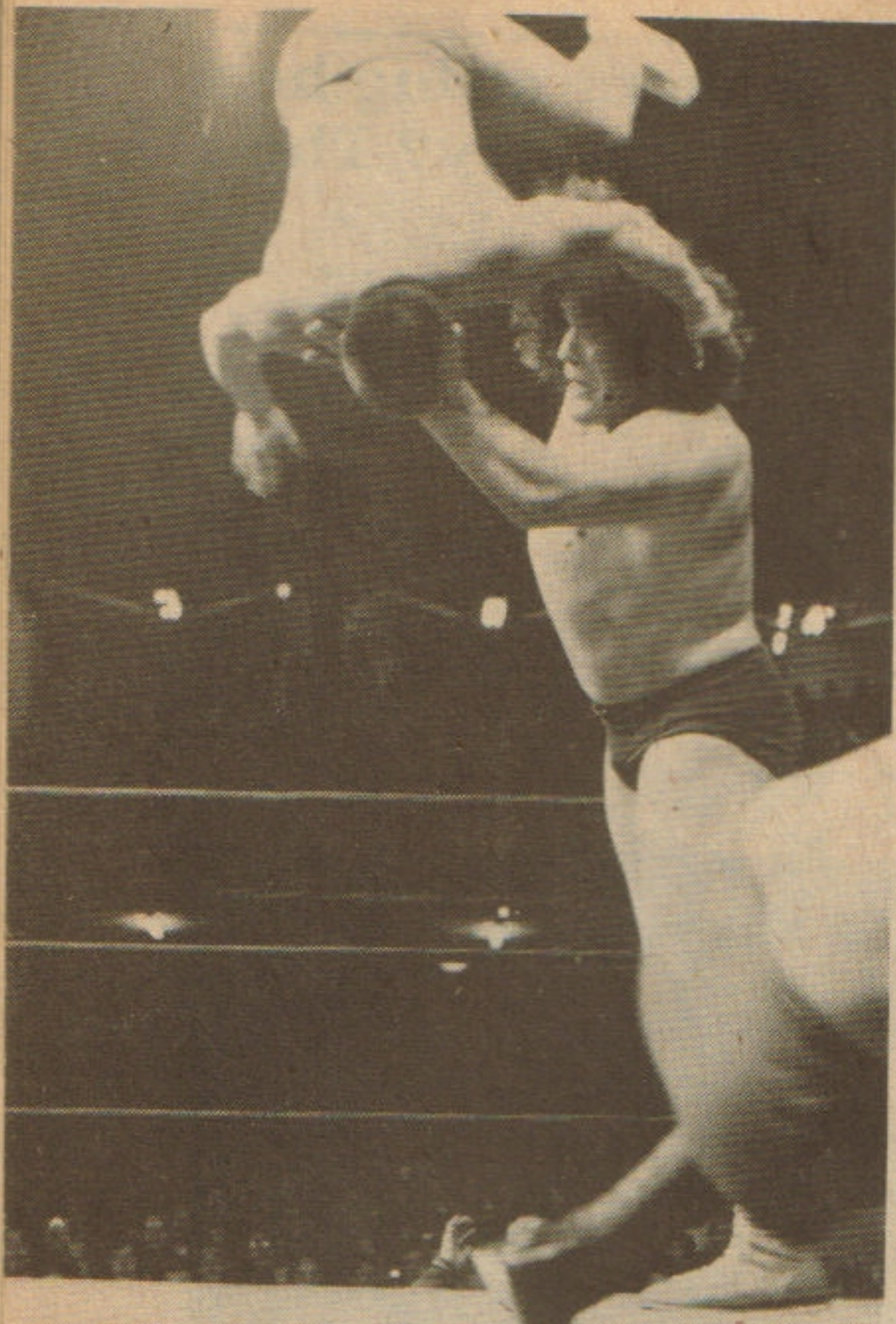
"If my duty was not to destroy Andre," Toru Tanaka contends, "I would do it for the joy of watching that overgrown clod squirm. He is the most overrated, uncoordinated wrestler who has ever lived! I had to spend

years learning my craft. Now this freak only has to stand there and he is a hero. Disgusting! And I cannot wait to see him finished!"

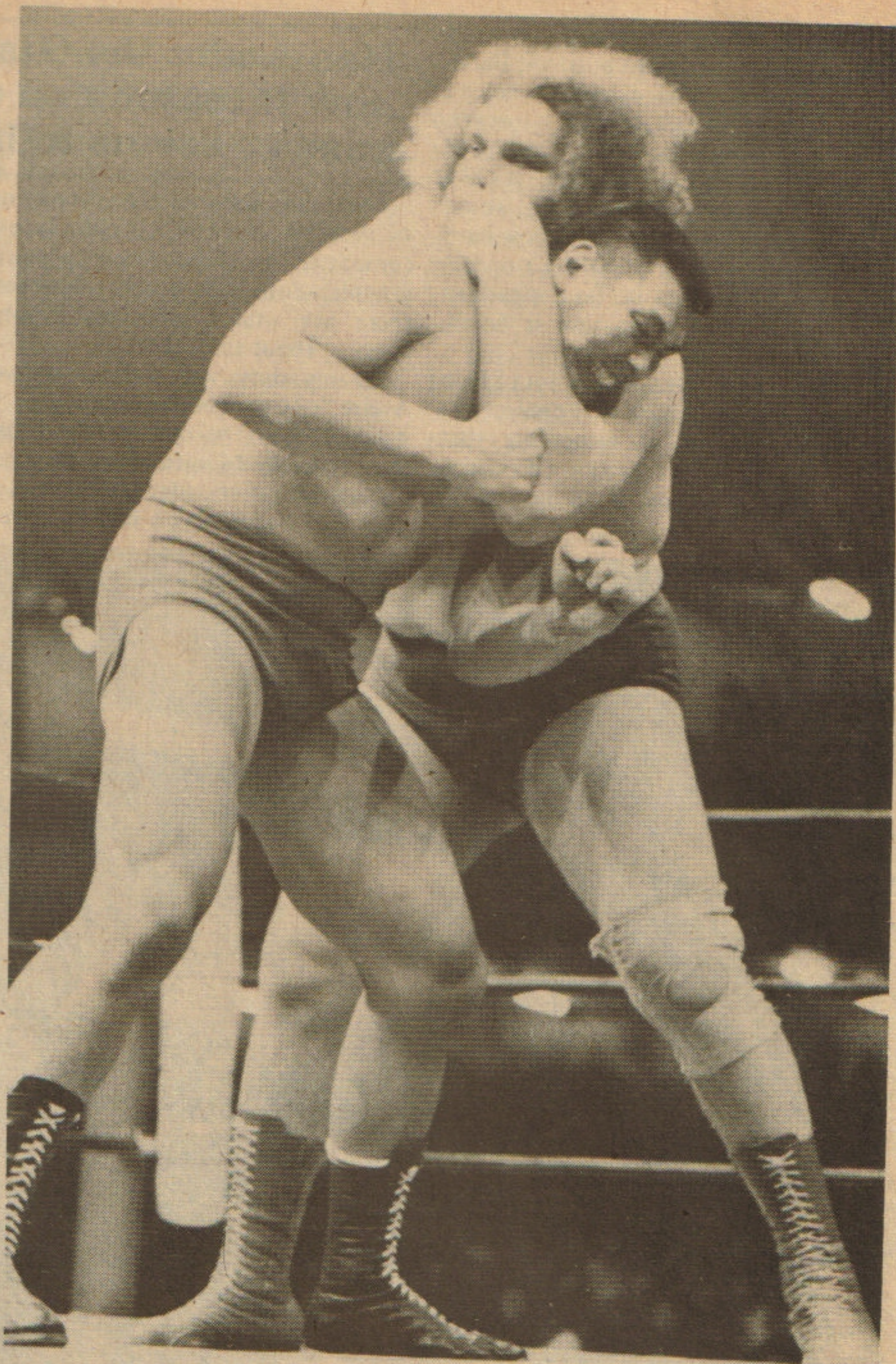
Jealousy directed at Andre is not new. But an entire nation dedicated to driving a man from his livelihood is both extraordinary and shocking. As might be expected, alliances have been formed dedicated to destroying Andre.

The last time Andre traveled to





Above: Ander flips Hoshino to the mat like he was a small rag doll. Right: Sakaguchi is trapped in a powerful headlock by the Giant. Below: The end is near for Hoshino as Andre catches him in the backbreaker.



Japan, he found himself being pursued by the savage team of Small Hoshino and Sakaguchi, two of the nation's most accomplished grapplers. Their battles were among the toughest handicap matches Andre has ever had. Only his great courage saved him.

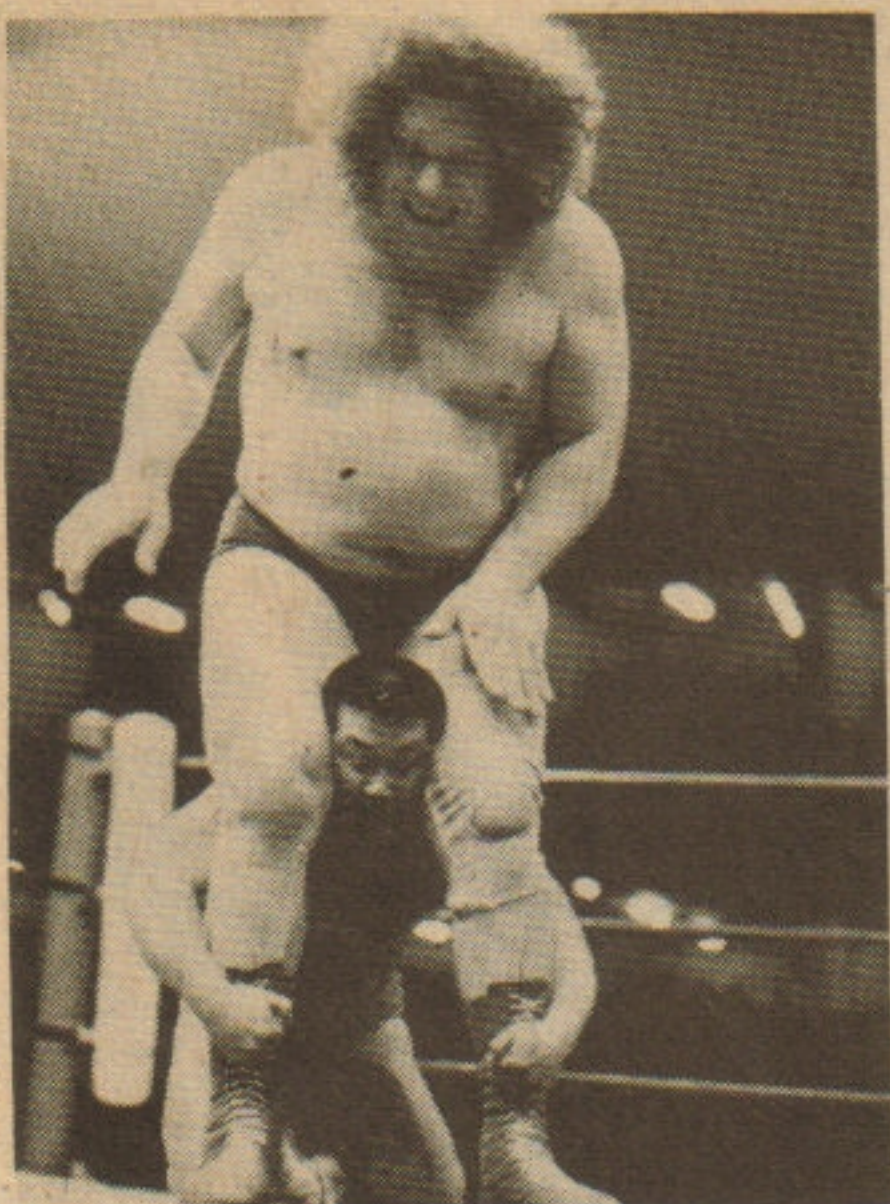
The two men worked perfectly together. At times, they made Andre's head ring with well executed headlocks and forearm smashes. Their intent was obvious—break the giant's neck!

"Though we failed to drive this giant from wrestling," Hoshino admits, "we did learn where he is most vulnerable. There will be others after us. Andre has escaped this time. He will not escape forever. Andre the Giant's future matches are few."

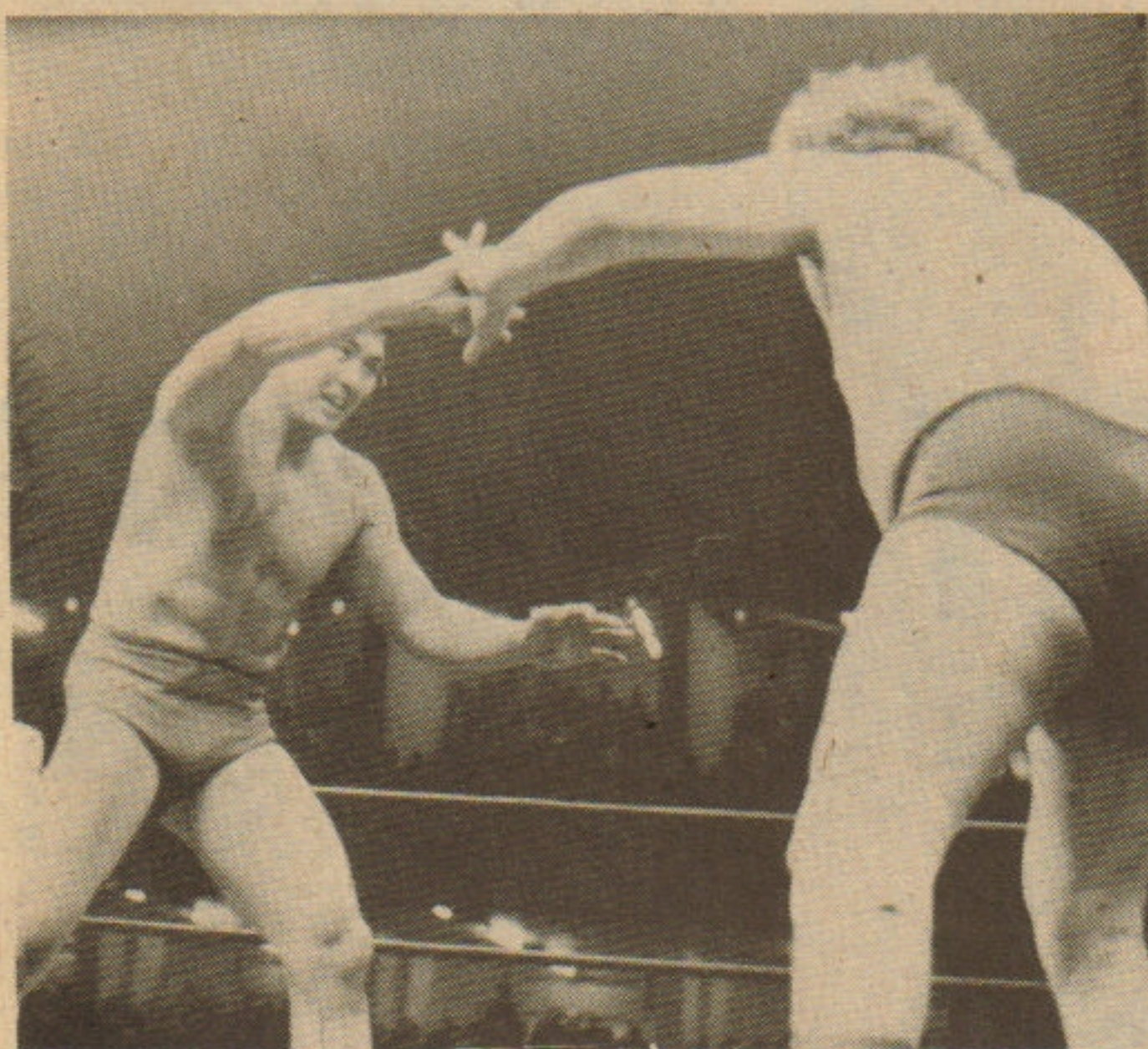
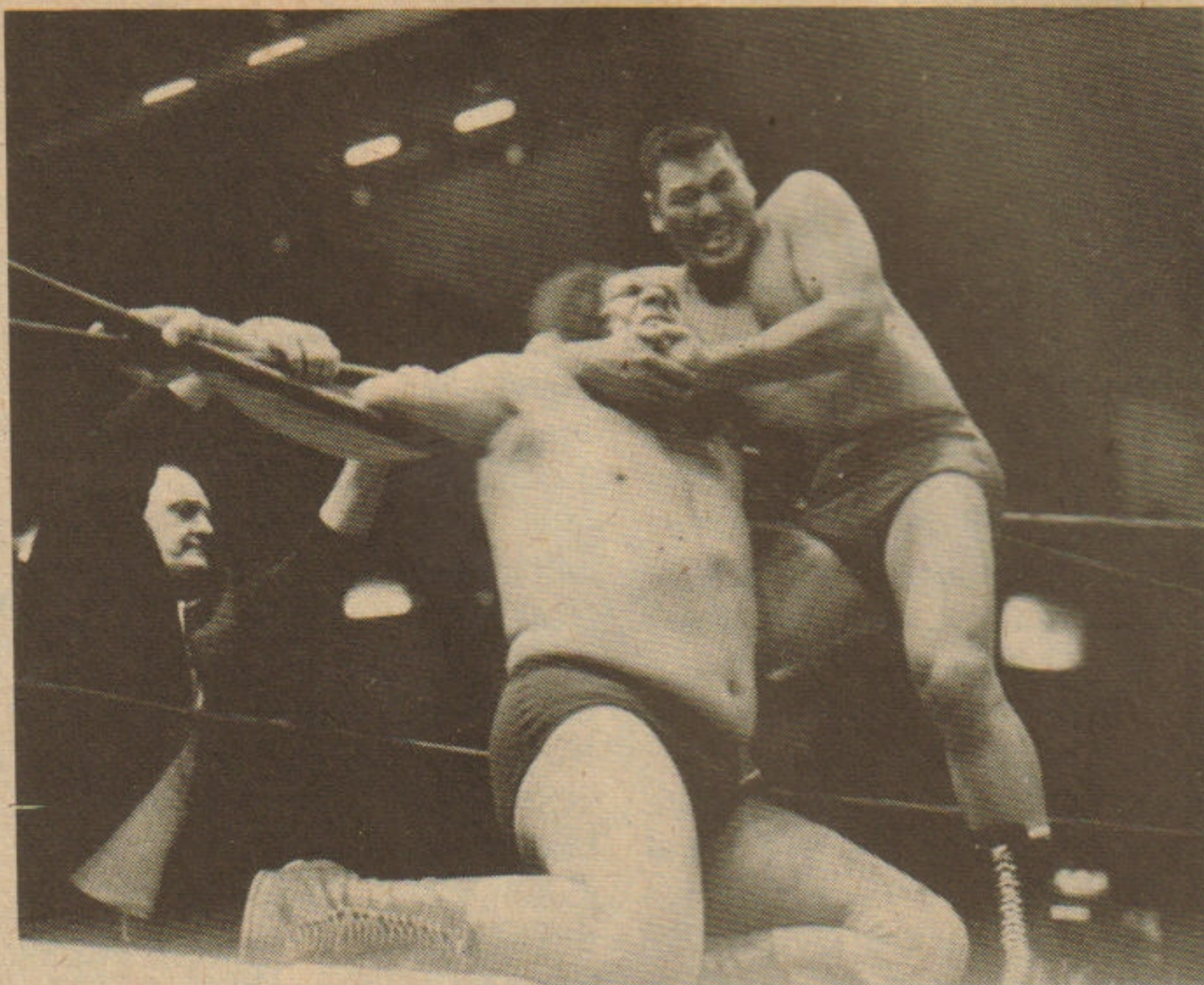
Hoshino announces his threat with the utmost calm, never even raising the inflection in his voice, yet his message loses none of its horror for the soft delivery.

Many people can't understand how the Japanese wrestlers can declare a vendetta against a man the fans worship. Wherever Andre appears, the arenas are packed and the crowd cheers him wildly. He is among the most popular grapplers ever to journey to this lovely island nation. Why don't the fans share their wrestlers sense of duty?

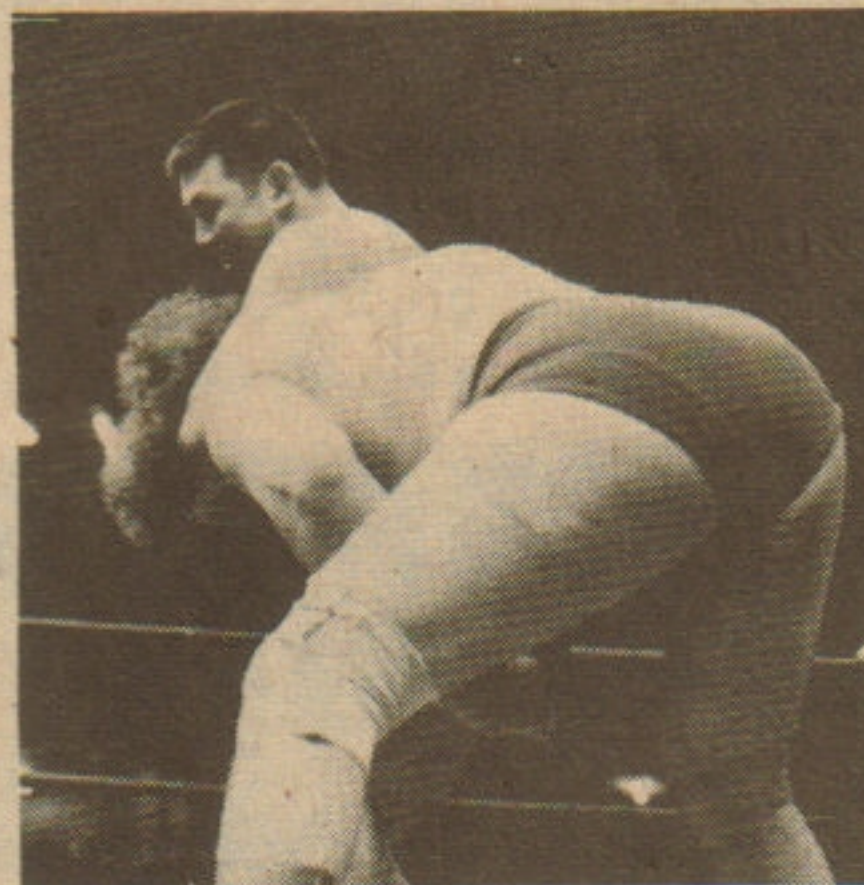
"Most of the Japanese people," Tommy Tsuruta explains, "aren't warriors. There is a special warrior mentality which we've learned at the



Hoshino is trapped between the powerful legs of Andre (above). The Giant is caught in the ropes (right) and this gives Sakaguchi a chance to attack.



Left: A test of strength between Sakaguchi and Andre is easily won by the Giant. Right: Sakaguchi has Andre caught in a headlock and the Japanese mat star applies all the pressure he can!



feet of old Samurai masters. Our people understand our commitments, and respect us for them, but are under no obligation to share them. They are free from what we cannot escape.

"You must remember, we are the modern samurai. And samurai have always been on the outside of the society they were pledged to protect. At no time in our long history have warriors allowed the people to share in our customs. No one felt safe with a samurai present, so they were wild and dangerous men.

"We are the modern warriors. Our concerns are not the concerns of the Japanese people. We cannot care if the people do not follow us."

The Japanese fan does understand

what their wrestlers must do, although few wish to see Andre's career destroyed.

"We watch with our mouths in our hearts," Toshiro Kurosawa, a veteran fan admits. "We do not wish to see Andre hurt for we share the world's opinion that he is one of the great men in wrestling history. Any harm to Andre would be a cruel blow to wrestling. There would be much sorrow in our country if Andre should be seriously injured here.

"Yet we have great respect for our own wrestlers. They have learned well from the masters. Our traditions live. In the modern world, that is a great accomplishment."

So with a strange combination of

sorrow and pride, the Japanese people watch a war which was declared 2,000 years ago. no one can stop it, though only a few of the warriors wish to go into battle. And in the middle of this uncontrollable situation is a gigantic Frenchman.

"Naturally," Andre admits, "I'm a bit confused. Many of the Japanese wrestlers out to get me I consider friends. And they consider me their friend! All have apologized to me for this. Some have even tried to make me understand what has happened. I have a very beautiful letter from Baba the Giant, almost 10 pages long, trying to explain why I must be driven from the sport we all love.

"But just as they must do what they must, I must do what I must. I will continue to wrestle in Japan—and damn the consequences!"

Andre the Giant is a very brave, very proud man. But can even a giant take on a country? □

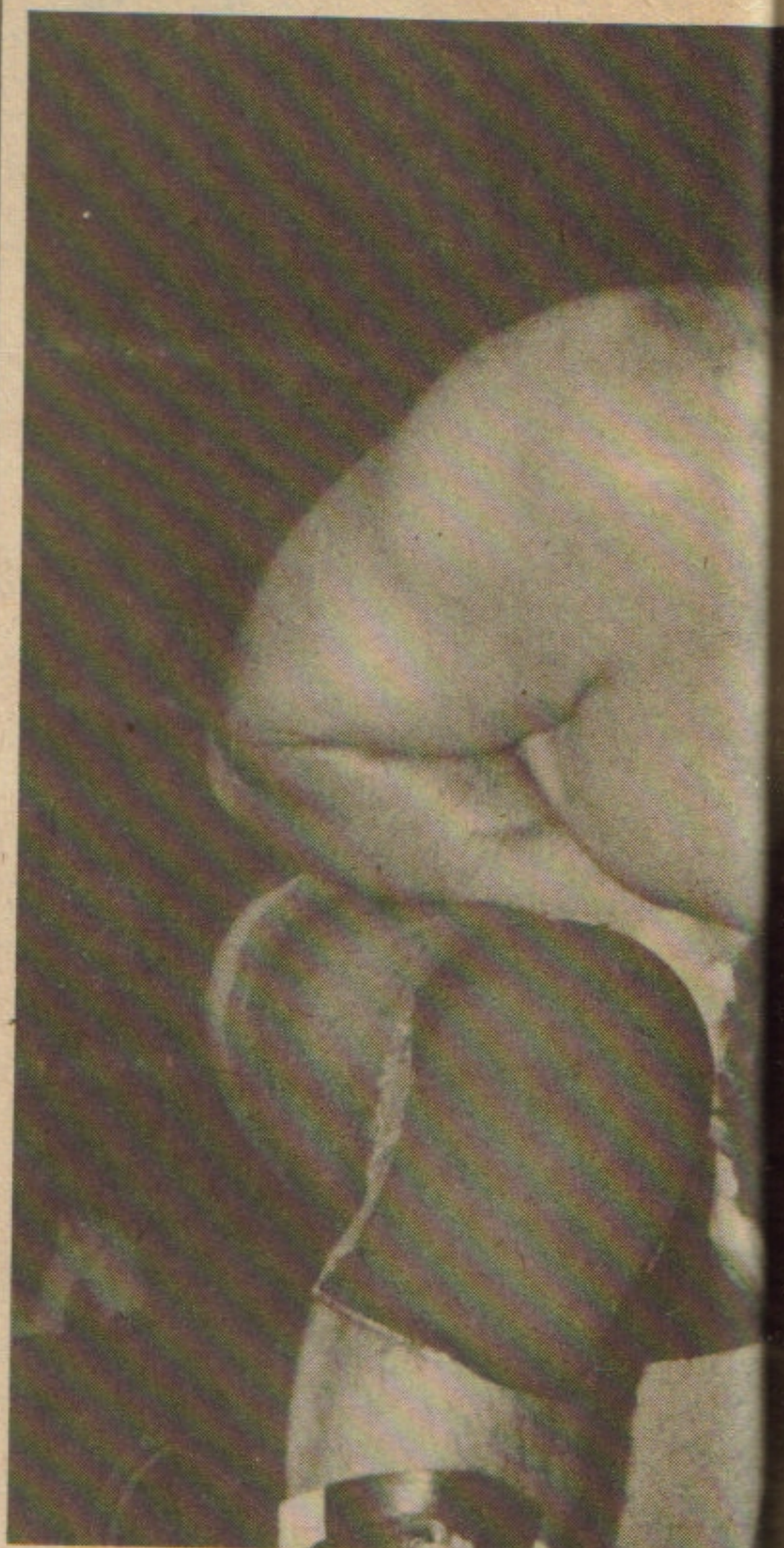
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The Inquiring Reporter

(Continued from Page 8)



The general consensus of the fans is that they would like to see Patterson (wrestling Billy Robinson) remain a fan favorite.

changing from scientific to rule-breaker and back again. He can't be trusted. He's a confused man, I think. He lets events lead him. As soon as he thinks a scientific wrestler has betrayed him, he'll become a rulebreaker again. I just feel sorry for any scientific wrestler that becomes his tag team partner." *Harmon (Dracon, Schenectady, New York):* "I don't think it's fair for us to judge beforehand what Pat might or might not do. Let's judge the man by his actions. As long as he's a scientific wrestler, he deserves our applause. If he becomes a rulebreaker, then—and only then—should we boo him. I'm willing to give him the benefit of



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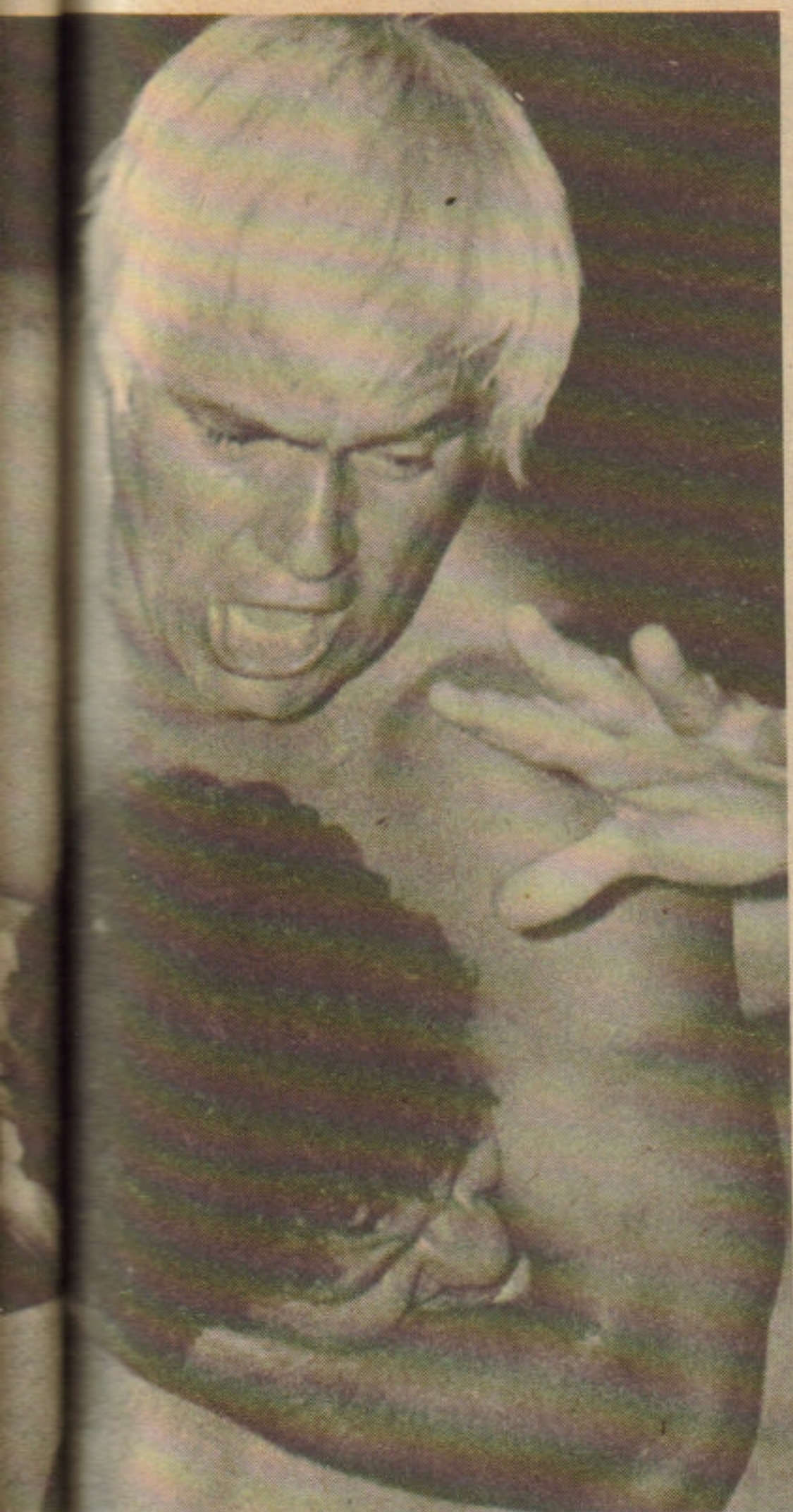
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the doubt. Deep down, I think he wants to be a scientific wrestler. It hasn't been easy for him. I think he's had a really tough wrestling career."

Tod Greening, Tarzana, California:
"Recently, Pat wrestled scientifically here. He was great. He was enjoying himself. Looked better than he has in years. No matter what he's done, Pat's always looked out for his own best interests. Pat's a smart cookie. He'll stay scientific. Unless, someone makes an offer he can't refuse."

Rick Junger, Boston, Massachusetts:
"Pat will do what he wants. He always has. I've been a fan of his for years, no matter how he wrestled. I don't think it matters, really. With any style, he's one of the best." ☐

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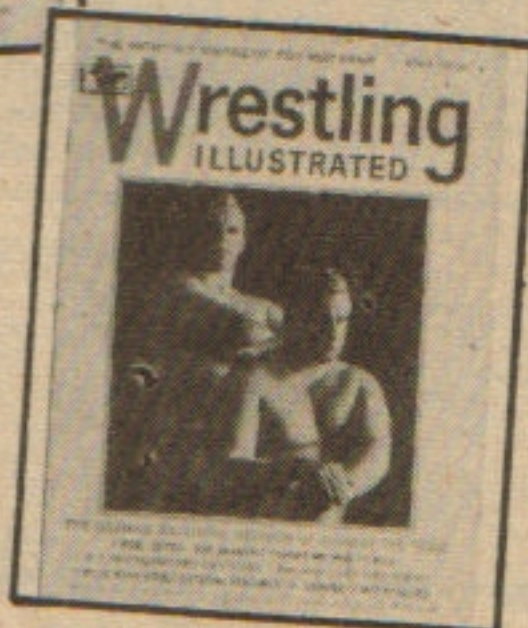
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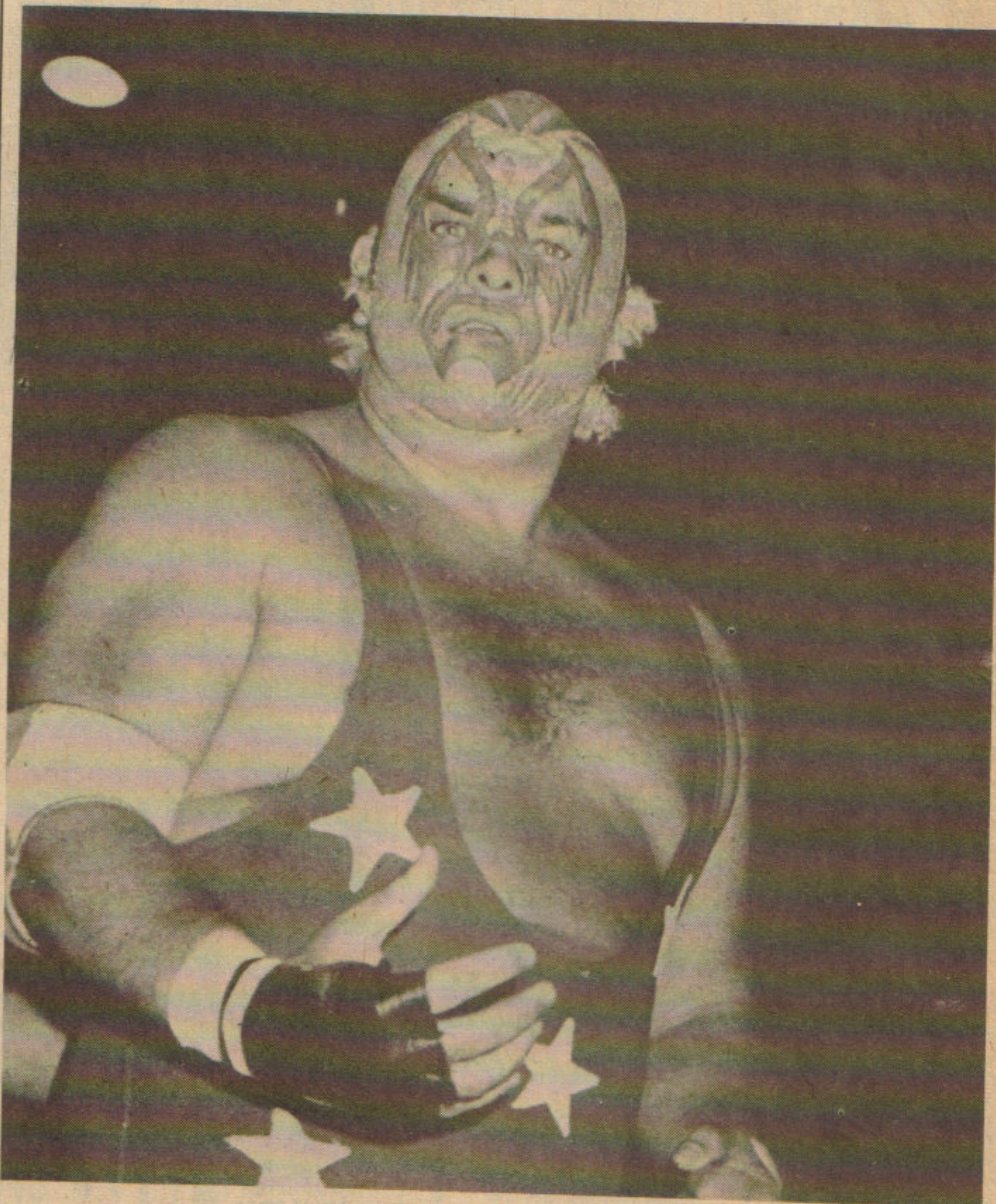
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THE TATTLER

(Continued from Page 12)

Smirnoff, Georgia tag team champions, now have their hands full with top rated challengers Ole and Lars Anderson. Ole and Lars are being cheered by the fans in their quest to win the belts. "Soon," Ole promises when

bum must be stopped!" growls Super Destroyer. The cool and always composed Uvalde Slim just says, "I am going to put a whuppin' all over his body. His momma won't even recognize him no more when I get finished with him."



UVALDE SLIM

fans ask when they can foresee the Anderson brothers taking the title.

—**B.W. Foreman**

TAMPA, FL—It looks like a confrontation of mask vs. mask as the hated Super Destroyer is looking to end the career of Texas' Uvalde Slim. "That fat, overweight masked

Sir Oliver Humperdink says that, Manny Fernandez is a disgrace to the Florida championship. "He's got no brains and no class. All he looks like is a great big——." We cut Sir Oliver off at this point, because he's obviously making one of himself!

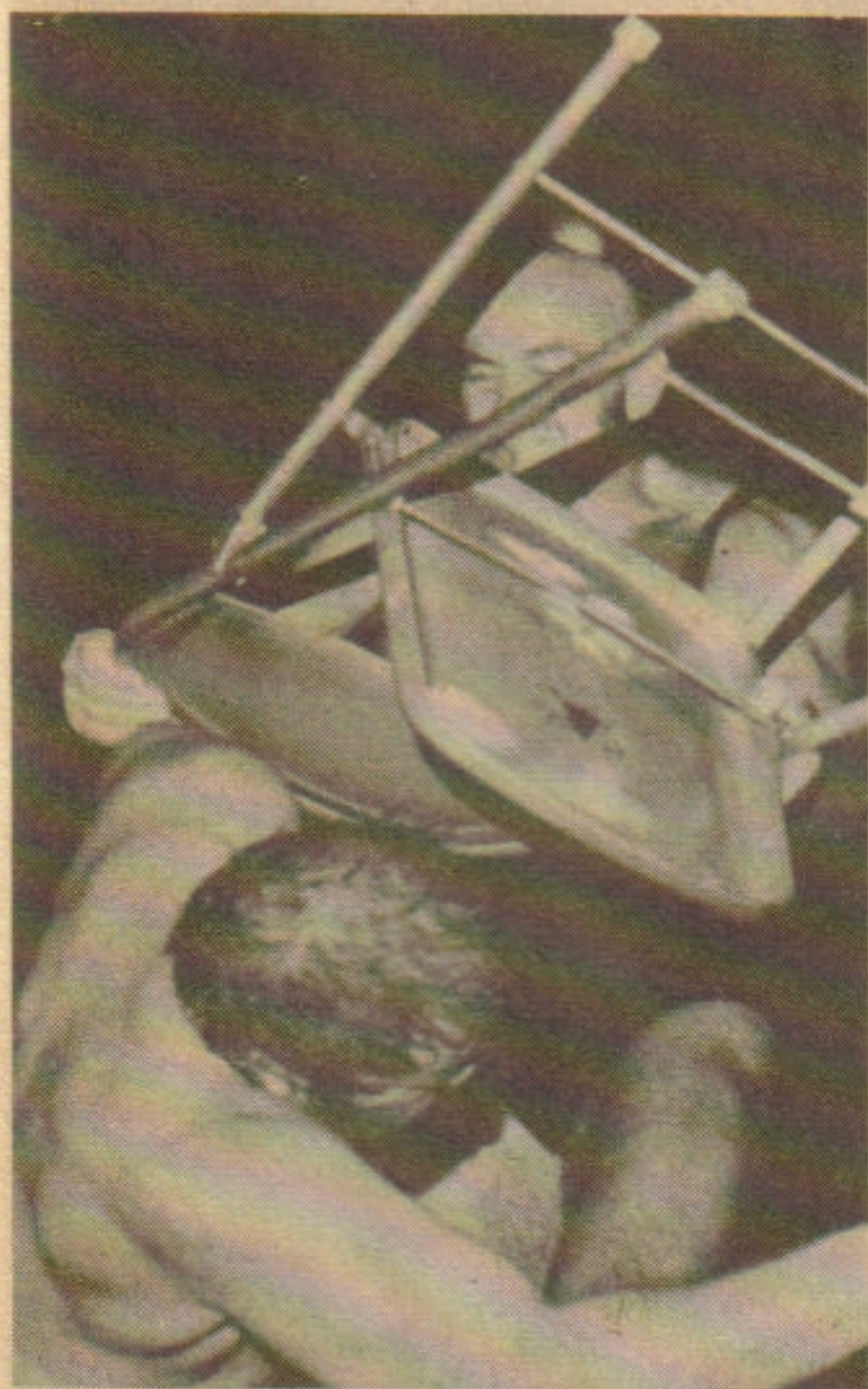
—**Barry Simon** ☐

Koloff vs Anderson

(Continued from Page 36)

"I have asked Georgia wrestling officials to ban Koloff from future championship matches.

"I have asked all men of conscience to disassociate themselves from Koloff. I have asked men like Kox and Superstar to cleanse themselves of the Russian's filth and come into the scientific wrestling world.



There weren't too many empty seats for this match, but Koloff managed to find one. He shares it with Anderson.

"But I have realized that only me, Ole Anderson, can fully and completely destroy the Russian menace. I risk my whole career, my prestige, on a battle to the death.

"Allies and fans are all well and good, but only one person must do it himself. I have no fear from this course of action. I know it is dangerous. I know that I may lose everything, that the position I have been thrust into may destroy me.

"I realize all this, but face the inevitable challenge. I ask for support from the fans and my allies. And courage for myself." □

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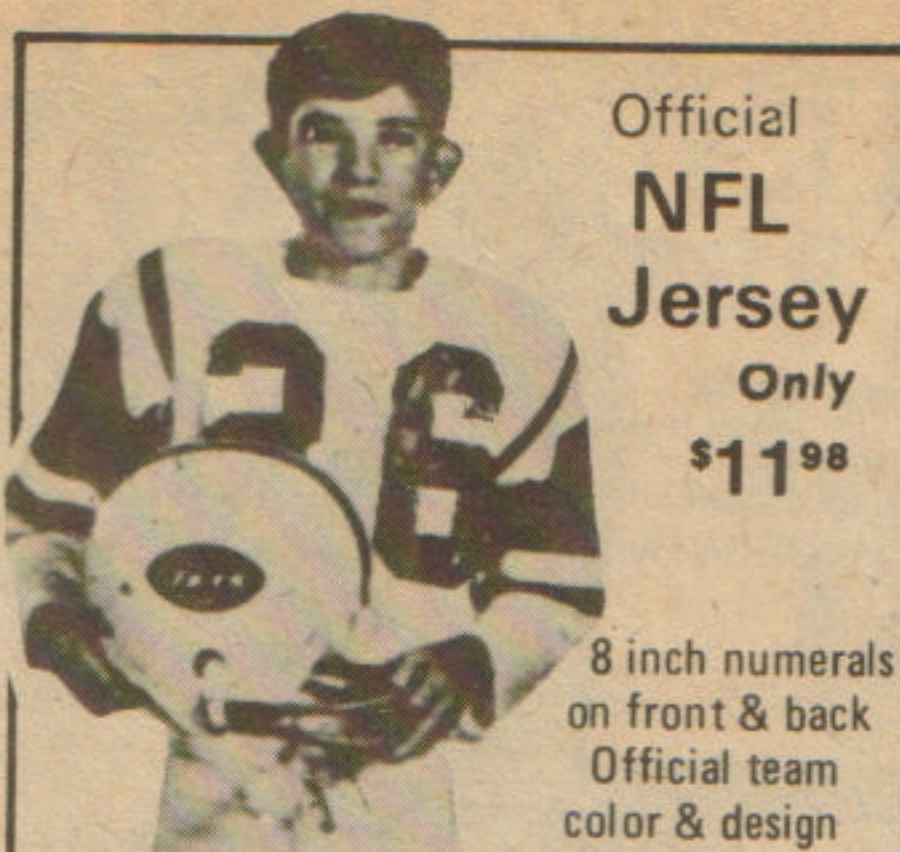
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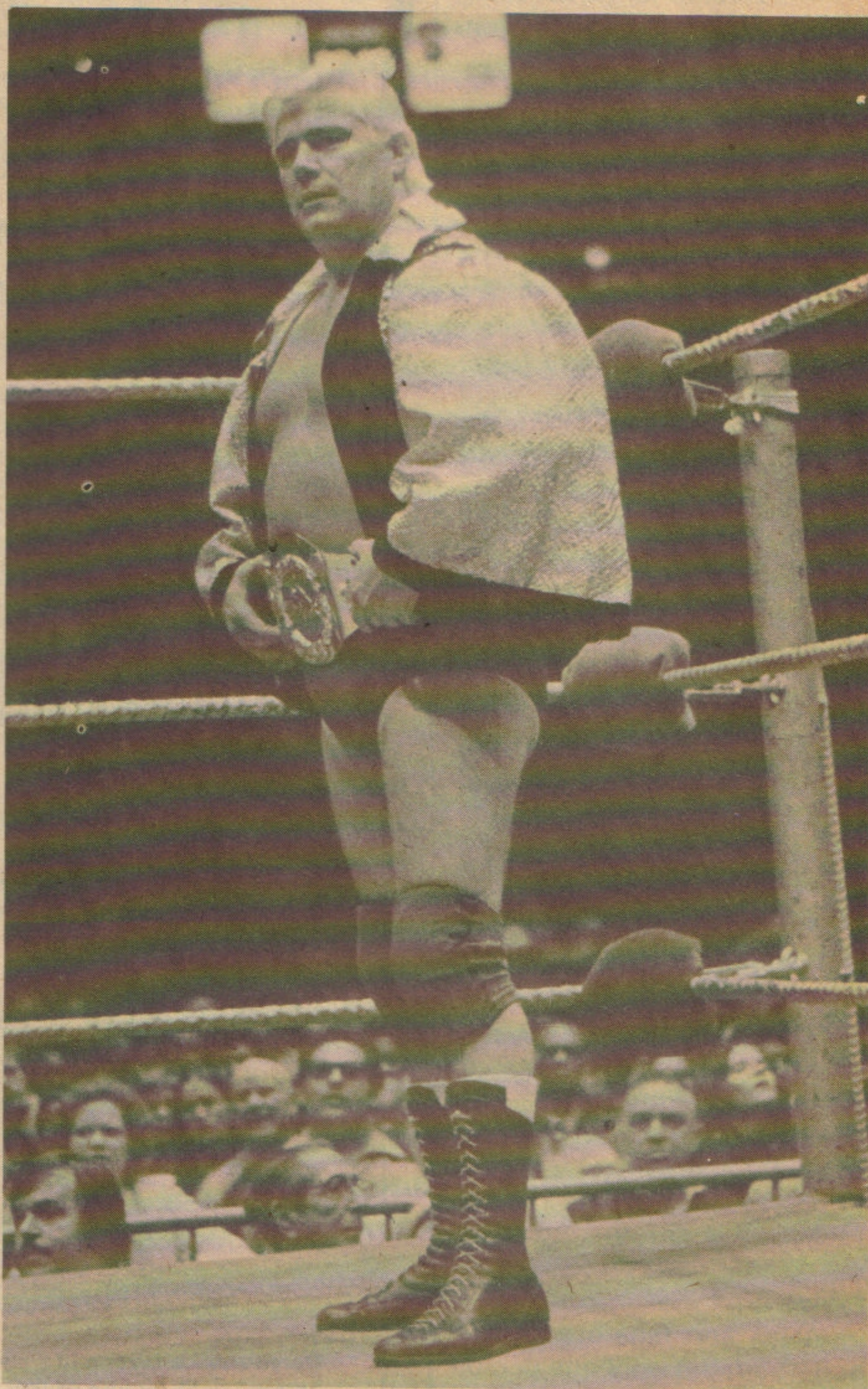


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WRESTLER OF THE MONTH

(Continued from Page 20)



The fans cheer for the man who possesses the Inter-Continental belt—Pat Patterson. After being attacked by Lou Albano and the Samoans, Patterson reassessed his entire outlook and emerged as a fan favorite.

book and nothing worked. Patterson countered brilliantly. Once Pat mounted his offensive, Albano was finished. Rarely has a series of maneuvers been so perfectly executed as was Patterson's assault on Albano.

The crowd "watched in" awe. When it was over, Patterson's ovation shook the rafters. No longer was Pat the hated rulebreaker. That night, he became the people's hero.

"I liked the cheers," Patterson

admits. "I felt good about myself. You can't feel good when you're under contract to Albano. The man's a bloodsucker. It takes your pride, your honor, and your body, then leaves you with nothing. He's the most selfish manager in the world."

"I thought he could make me champion. All he could make me was a stretcher case. He didn't care about me at all. The fans care. Being on their side is being on the right side. I know that now."

"I'm not through with Albano yet. We will have a score to settle. I only won one battle. We still have a war ahead of us."



Bleeding profusely after being attacked with a chair by Lou Albano, Patterson vows revenge.

"I'm honored to be named 'Wrestler of the Month.' I hope this is just one of many times the fans can be proud of me. I have a lot to make up for."

One can't really appreciate the power of Patterson's words without seeing the man's face. His eyes burn with rage. The set of his mouth is a thin line. His jaw juts out in challenge. It is the look of a man who will not be denied.

Pat Patterson will not be denied. Still ahead is his war with Albano, his crusade to drive the Samoans from wrestling, and his attempt to make the fans into his friends.

We're glad to be able to give him encouragement. It's with great pleasure we name Pat Patterson "Wrestler of the Month." ☐

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